

Feature

60th anniversary of the ESO - 25

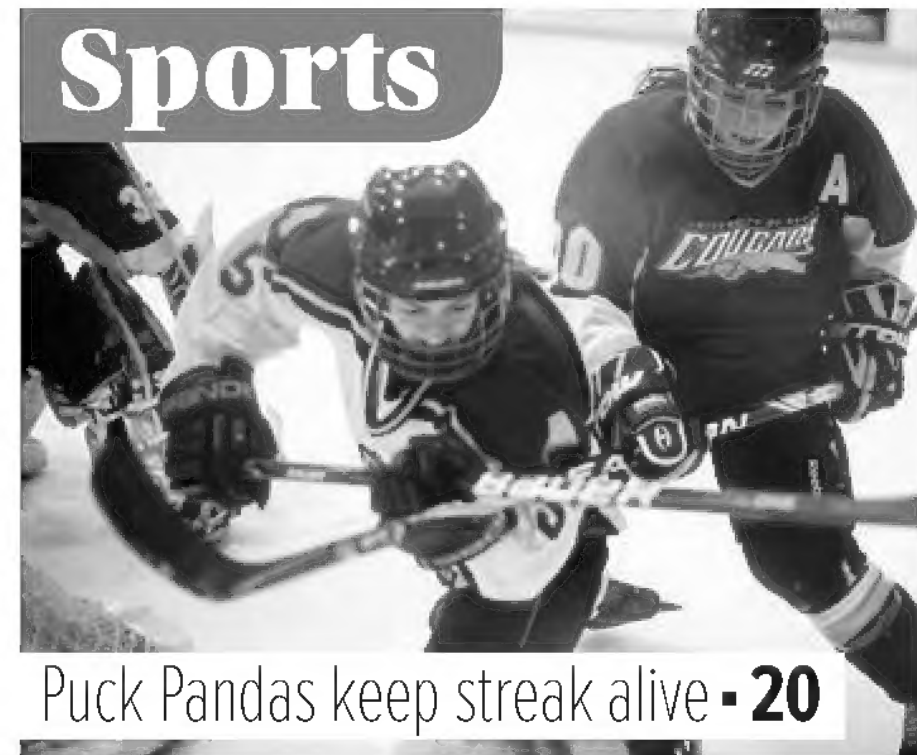


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Acupuncture for kids both useless and dangerous - 10

Sports



Puck Pandas keep streak alive - 20

November 30th, 2011 ■ Issue No. 14 ■ Volume 102

THE gateway

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

THEATRE PREVIEW

Satirical sorcery in Pratchett's *Wyrd Sisters*

Paige Gorsak

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF ■ @PAIGEGORSAK

Uniting a cast of 21 people — all with different day jobs — is a difficult feat for any director. But for J. Nelson Niwa, it's all in a day's work, as he brings *The Wyrd Sisters* to life at the Walterdale Playhouse.

■ **"It is a fantasy ... there is magic ... but at the same time, it has a real, current edge to it."**

J. NELSON NIWA
DIRECTOR, *THE WYRD SISTERS*

"As any first-time director will probably tell you, it ends up being more than you thought it was going to be," he says. "I knew it was going to be bigger than one person, I just didn't realize how much of it would be like a skier having the mountain kind of come down around him, only to realize it's no longer his ride."

The Wyrd Sisters represents its own directorial challenge as a theatrical adaptation of the beloved science fiction novel by Terry Pratchett. Like the other 38 books in Pratchett's *Discworld* series, *The Wyrd Sisters* offers social commentary and satire through fantasy stories.

"I always describe Pratchett as this fantasy satire," Niwa explains. "It is a fantasy — there are witches, there is magic, there are dwarves ... But at the same time, it has a real, current edge to it that can be applied throughout societies — a lot of observations on human nature."

PLEASE SEE **WYRD SISTERS** • PAGE 17



AMIRALI SHARIFI

SOCIAL MEDIA

Increased use of Wikipedia as a teaching tool in classrooms

Andrew Jeffrey

NEWS STAFF ■ @ANDREW_JEFFREY

A handful of University of Alberta classes have introduced Wikipedia to their classrooms as a teaching resource this past semester, despite criticisms about the website's credibility in educational institutions.

The initiative to integrate Wikipedia into classes began in the United States with the Wikimedia Foundation's Wikipedia Education Program, but has expanded globally to include classes in Canada and India. Professors use the website by replacing traditional writing or research assignments with students writing Wikipedia articles or improving pre-existing pages.

"In addition to getting all the benefits from a traditional research assignment, (students) are also learning new media literacy skills. They're being exposed to a growing Wiki

culture, and they're being exposed to a very real and very relevant social media phenomenon," said Jonathan Obar, Wikipedia's education co-ordinator for Canada.

Obar is responsible for reaching out to Canadian universities and encouraging schools to use Wikipedia. Originally the program's goal was to improve the poor quality of many Wikipedia articles on social sciences. Instead of hiring content experts to fix the problem, the idea of giving students the experience to rewrite them was implemented instead.

"The real goal is to promote Wikipedia as a tool for innovative e-pedagogy," Obar said. "That's the main thrust of the initiative at this point. There are other goals that go along with that, like bridging divides between the university community and Wikipedia, and teaching students new media literacy skills."

PLEASE SEE **WIKIPEDIA** • PAGE 4

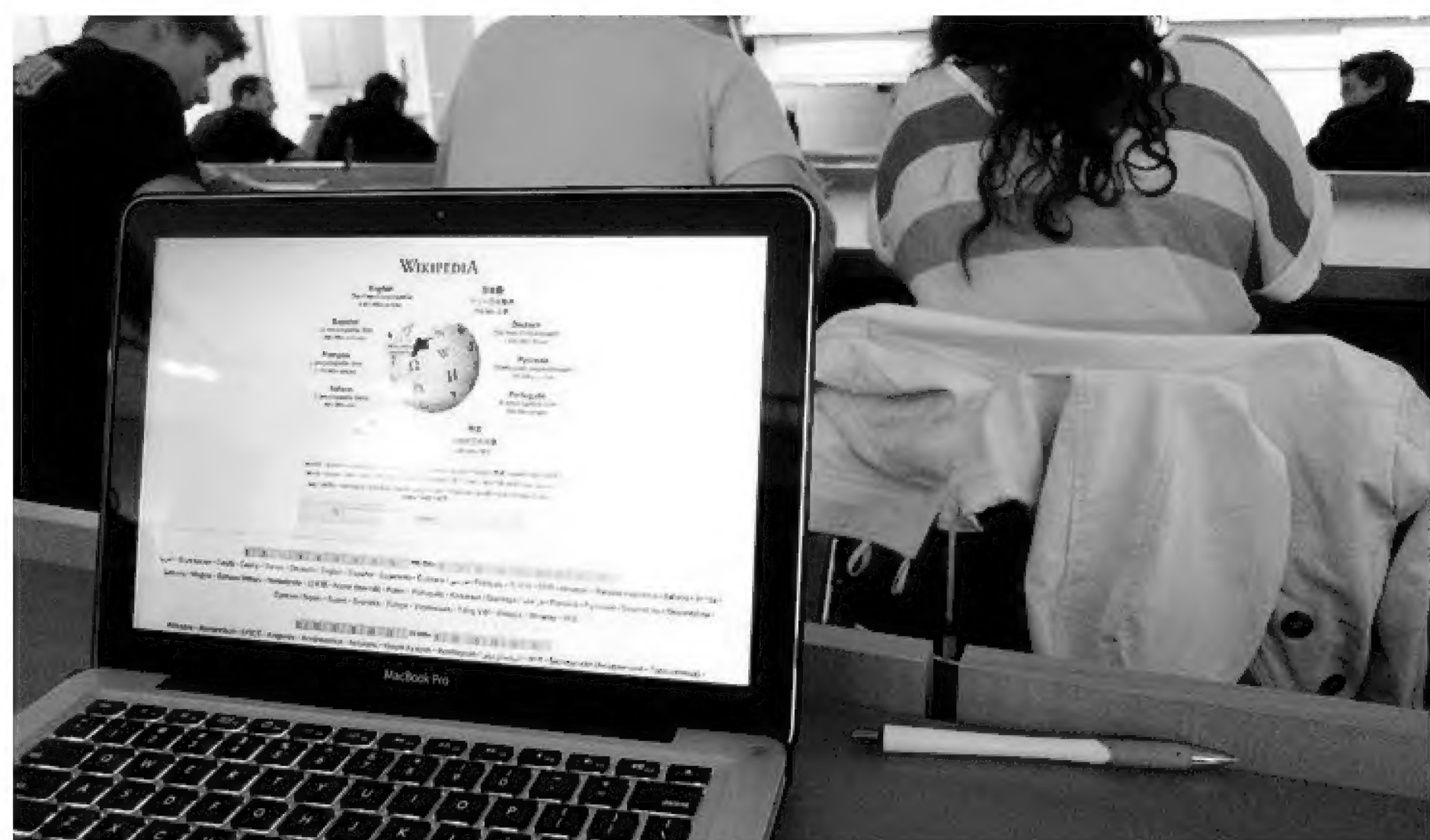


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: SAM BROOKS

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colophon

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Zaineb Hussein, Alana Willerton, Ravanne Lawday, Andrew Jeffrey, Rachel Singer, Katherine Speur, Atta Almasi, Jacquelin Gregoire, Julianna Damer, Matthew Parsons, Kate Black, Paige Gorsak, Cody Gretzinger, Garrett Rosser, Ramneek Tung, Hilary Dyck, Peggy Jankovic, Selena Phillips-Boyle, Adrian Lahola-Chomiak, Darcy Ropchan, Joel Aspden, Nick Ong, Yifeng Liu, Seyyed Hossein Mortazavi, AmirAli Sharifi, Matt Hirji, Todd Pruner, Sam Brooks, Saman Vaisipour, Peter Holmes, Lance Mudryk, Evan Mudryk, Lauren Alston, Kirsty Vogelesang



CELEBRATION OF CULTURE Ensembles from Africa, India and the Middle East performed songs and dances at the U of A on Saturday. See page 5 for the full story. YIFENG LIU

streeters

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY Paige Gorsak + April Hudson

As you may be aware, it's the last full week of classes this term.

WE ASKED...

What are you currently procrastinating on right now?



Arisha Seeras ALES V

"Not doing my final papers because I'd rather talk to friends instead. That's what I'm doing right now."



Tori Olafson SCIENCE III

"Pharmacology. They put a brand new course in and the teacher doesn't really know what's going on, so I'm kind of scared. And there's no practice questions."



Kate Kreutz PHYS. ED II

"My final report for a PERLS 105 course. [What are you doing instead?] Facebook."



Eric Woolsey SCIENCE I

"Just studying for everything. All my physics classes."

This is it, the home stretch in The Gateway's moustache competition with the Students' Union executives. It all comes down to a few days and the last few scraggly hairs popping out of upper lips.



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FILE PHOTO: MATT HIRJI

Hundreds take to the court for a shot at dodgeball glory

Alana Willerton
NEWS STAFF • @ALANAWILLERTON

It was a red battlefield last weekend as students, staff and faculty ducked and threw on the dodgeball court in the University of Alberta’s third annual Campus Cup.

The university-wide dodgeball tournament hosted by the Students’ Union saw co-ed dodgeball teams from all areas of the university square off against each other in a minimum of three matches over the course of the weekend.

With 48 teams battling for bragging rights, it was ultimately student group team Decepticons who earned the right to call themselves the play-off champions of the 2011 Campus Cup. Prizes were also awarded for teams who embodied attitudes of good sportsmanship and fair play.

The tournament, which has seen a rise in popularity over the last three years, reached its cap of 48 eligible teams within hours of launching registration earlier this month.

Even though there were about

60 interested teams this year, tournament organizers were forced to restrict the number of teams due to limited available gym space.

Brennan Murphy, one of the three organizers of Campus Cup, attributed the increase of interest in the tournament to the simple, fun nature of the sport, which has long been popular at the U of A.

“The fact (is) that dodgeball is easy. You need nothing but a pair of shoes to show up and play. Well, and obviously 13 other friends,” Murphy said.

“I think it’s just something easy and fun for people to do at a time when a lot of people need to unwind since it’s so close to exams.”

With Campus Cup teams made up of students, staff and even alumni, Murphy said this mesh of the U of A’s wide community is exactly what the organizers of Campus Cup had in mind when creating the event.

“When it started out two years ago, the goal of Campus Cup was just to get people out playing dodge ball against professors and other

staff at the university,” Murphy said. “I think that’s why we still run it. It’s an easy way to unwind with other people at a high stress time of the year.”

Having taken place a few months before the U of A plans to once again tackle the Guinness World Record for the largest dodgeball game, Murphy said increased interest in the Campus Cup could be attributed to the hype surrounding the world record attempt.

However, Murphy was quick to point out that Campus Cup has also grown thanks to its own merits, and that their goal is to keep expanding the tournament in the coming years.

“The world record has its limits,” Murphy explained. “We’ll get to a point where to break the world record we’ll need more people than we have on campus. But Campus Cup could continue on forever.”

The university plans to compete for the Guinness World Record for the third time on Feb. 3, 2012 in the Butterdome.

Faculty science group aims to give students advice with new website

April Hudson
STAFF REPORTER • @APRIL_HUDSON

Science students at the University of Alberta may have access to a new way of evaluating their courses next semester.

The Interdepartmental Science Students’ Society (ISSS) at the University of Alberta has designed an initiative dubbed advISSS, which aims to provide science students with advice on specific courses. The initiative will give students an opportunity to leave comments on individual courses, in a similar vein to websites like Rate My Professors.

“You don’t want to make a mistake choosing a course, or else you end up spending the next four months of your life in it,” said Dustin Chelen, ISSS vice-president (academic).

Chelen noted that advISSS is intended to be more useful for students than current methods of rating courses and instructors, such as the professor evaluation surveys that students currently fill out.

“We all fill out the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction surveys, and they’re all publicly available on the university website,” Chelen said.

“You can see how students rank the professor’s communication ability, or their interest in the course — but it’s just a number.”

The advISSS website is also intended to be a couple steps above websites such as Rate My Professors, which Chelen alleged is extremely contextual and “teases out biases”

against the professors more often than not.

“I’ve had courses where the instructor has had trouble with English, but I’ve still loved the course because of the textbook, or the content,” Chelen said. “So I don’t agree that Rate My Professors provides a full picture.”

The advISSS website has been designed, but the site hasn’t been made public yet. According to Chelen, there is no expected release date, but ISSS is hoping it will be available to students before they have to finalize their winter semester courses, pending a terms of use approval by the Office of the Dean of Students.

So far, the advISSS initiative has garnered support from science students, but according to Chelen, faculty members have been harder to win over.

“We’ve been working our hardest to make sure that we’re balancing the interests of students and protecting instructors,” Chelen said. “From my personal standpoint, I don’t want to make something that’s going to hurt someone, be it a student or an instructor.”

In order to design the fairest website possible, ISSS has been working closely with Student Group Services, the Dean of Students, University Risk Management, the Faculty of Science, and the AASUA.

In order to address some of the controversy surrounding the potential website, ISSS held a town hall on Tuesday to discuss the concerns in-

structors and administrators have.

Senior Associate Dean (Student Services) of Science Brenda Leskiw raised concerns during the meeting about affiliating the website with the Faculty of Science.

“I don’t know how you can control any of this to provide real utility to students,” Leskiw said. “(Students) will make decisions that could place programs and courses in jeopardy. They could change their mind about courses based on what could really just be fear-mongering amongst students.”

Leskiw argued that students will ultimately hurt themselves through this website, as one unintended consequence of negative comments on the website could be students deciding to enrol in a different university, which would ultimately affect science funding.

“There are all kinds of unintended consequences that can have real impact,” Leskiw said. “Students need to be in the class, in these seats, for us to receive funding.”

“I was surprised to hear that instructors don’t feel that we have the ability to judge for ourselves what courses are best for us to take,” Chelen noted.

Chelen added that the purpose of advISSS is not to provide a 100 per cent accurate view of classes.

“I don’t think that will ever be able to happen,” Chelen said. “You can’t provide a fully objective view, and this isn’t a course rating mechanism either: it’s just to provide advice.”



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Writer-in-residence feels at home in Edmonton

April Hudson
STAFF REPORTER • @APRIL_HUDSON

From writing baby books to collecting Star Wars micro-machines, this year's writer-in-residence is a man of many passions.

Richard Van Camp, a member of the Dogrib Nation from Fort Smith in the Northwest Territories, has now brought his passions and his micro-machines to Edmonton to fill the role of the University of Alberta's writer-in-residence. Since starting in September, Van Camp has made it his duty to help budding writers get published.

Having released two collections of short stories, as well as a novel, Van Camp has a new short story collection coming out next year called "Godless, but Loyal to Heaven."

"We just signed the deal yesterday," Van Camp says. "We're also about to sign a deal for my new baby book called 'Little You'. It'll be out in 2013."

Van Camp has also just released a comic book on sexual health awareness, an idea that he pitched to the Government of the Northwest Territories in order to address some of the issues that northern communities face.

"Kids aren't going to read pamphlets — they're too smart these days," Van Camp says. "So I said to the government, why don't we do a comic book? Let's get 10,000 copies out for free, and let's put it online for free in French and English, and so they did. It took us two years, and it's out, and it'll probably be online in the next two weeks."

One of Van Camp's novels, *The*



MAN OF MANY PASSIONS Richard Van Camp has been the University of Alberta's writer-in-residence since September. MATT HIRJI

Lesser Blessed, has been a movie in the making for the past six years. Currently being filmed in Ontario, the film stars Benjamin Bratt as well as Kiowa Gordon from *Twilight* and a young man from VanCamp's hometown who was cast as the leading role.

And now, Van Camp has moved

into another role at the U of A, and says being writer-in-residence has given him the opportunity to meet some of the greatest writers in Alberta.

"Some of them are students at the university, some of them are teachers here. There's one young man who drives two hours every time he

comes to see me," he said.

Van Camp considers Edmonton the "hub" of the North, and said that although he was not born in Edmonton, he feels like it is his home.

"My mom and my brothers and my dad are down here all the time," he says. "I live here, hopefully one

day I'll raise a family here, have a house here and everything. I finally feel like I've arrived.

"What makes Edmonton so sexy to me is really the people and the culture. People have time for friends here in Edmonton."

Van Camp added that one of the things he loves best about Edmonton is the "northern spirit" he sees in the city.

"I always say that the northerners are the hobbits of Canada," Van Camp says. "We love to host, we love to cook, and we make time for each other."

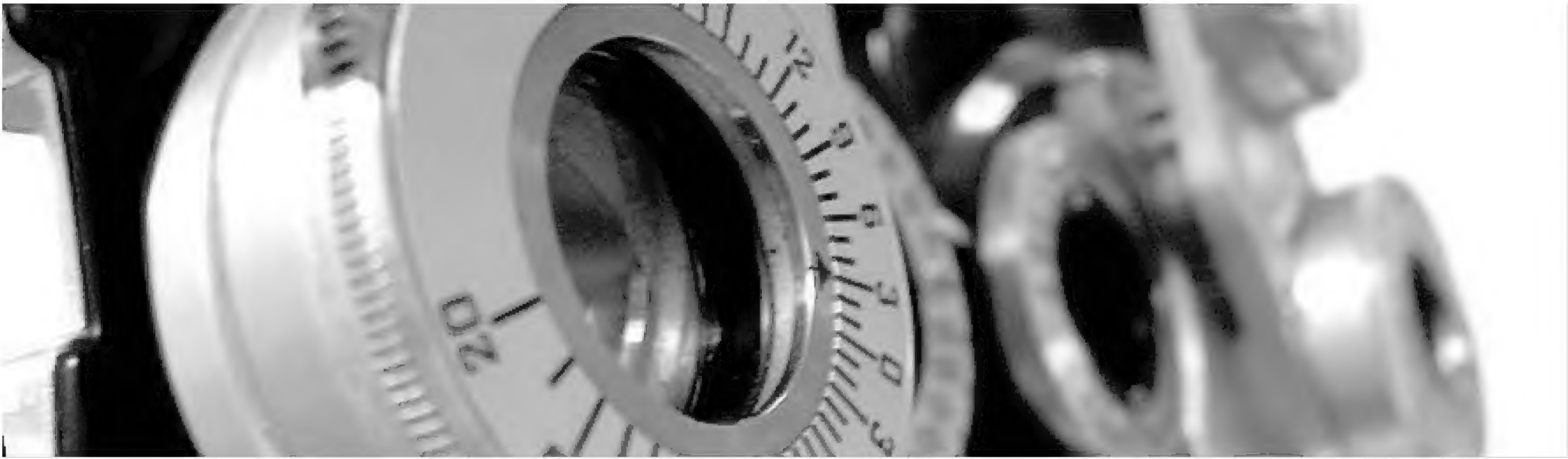
Van Camp says he wants to be remembered as someone who brought opportunities to everyone he's met by making time for other people.

"As writer-in-residence here, I don't believe it's my duty to just tell someone they're a great writer," he explains. "I really do believe my job in this life is to get people published and recognized for their talents. So at 40 years old, my job now is to be a mentor, in whatever way that means."

Van Camp is currently working on four other movie deals based on his writing, all of which he is pushing to be filmed in the Northwest Territories.

"I want the millions of dollars that those movies are going to be bringing into the economy spent in the Northwest Territories," he says.

"I really hope I brought a voice to the Northwest Territories that will never be equalled. I'm one of many northern writers, I'm one of many Aboriginal writers, but I want to be remembered."



SUPPLIED: JOE SPARKLE / FLICKR

U of A iCare initiative opens the eyes of school children to a clearer world

Ravanne Lawday
NEWS STAFF • @RAVIAZHARKO

Elementary school students are getting the chance to see more clearly thanks to a program developed by University of Alberta students that offers school children free eye exams.

The annual iCare Initiative University of Alberta (ICIUA) program was launched in 2008 by third-year medical student Ravin Bastiampilla under its former title Unite for Sight. The program eventually evolved into iCare in 2010, and now aims to cover schools all over Alberta.

The initiative's student volunteers administer eye tests to students from grades one to three, and send a note home to the child's parents noting any concerns, along with a recommendation as to whether they should seek further help from an eye care specialist.

"We take the eye charts and ask them if they can see certain shapes and what they are," explained organizer Eric Martin. "By that, we get a preliminary diagnosis and determine if this child may or may not need glasses, and hopefully encourage their parents or guardians to get a further screening with an optometrist."

About 10 to 12 volunteers start their visits with a two-hour long presentation about eye care health and safety for the students and staff of the school.

"We try to make it fun and interactive," Martin said. "We just discuss how to be healthy, how to maintain your health, and the importance of diet and exercise."

"We take the eye charts and ask them if they can see certain shapes and what they are. By that, we get a preliminary diagnosis."

ERIC MARTIN
CHAIR, ICARE INITIATIVE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

"Then we focus on eye health by discussing parts of the eye, and what you should do if you are having problems seeing the whiteboard in class — just general things that help with child safety and improving the quality of life for these kids."

The iCare initiative is undergoing a pilot research project this year, in which questionnaires are sent home to parents asking them if they are aware that Alberta Health offers free eye exams to minors, and to encourage them to book free exams for their children.

With that data, Martin says they

hope to administer eye exams in all of Edmonton's schools, while expanding the initiative in universities in Calgary and other major Albertan regions.

Since the program's inception in 2008, volunteers have been visiting roughly six to eight schools per month during the fall and winter terms. But expansion brings the

need for more volunteers, and Martin hopes to include more education and nursing students than ever before. The initiative gives education students a chance to work in schools with children, and nursing students an opportunity to practice patient care and interaction.

"It's really right up their alley," Martin said, "We also have volunteers in art, science, and medicine. It's been a great success, really."

"Hopefully we are able to show the difference that we're making in the lives of inner-city families," Martin added.

Wikipedia gives student writing larger readership

WIKIPEDIA • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Paula Marentette is one U of A professor who uses Wikipedia for her classes. The cognitive psychology professor listed her class on the program's Canadian Education portal, but has no affiliation with the program.

Marentette, who had never used Wikipedia before the start of this term, sees the benefits in the program, but is measured with her praise.

"From my perspective, this will make (students') writing more meaningful to them. In a discipline like psychology, students think of an essay as something they write for me, and really that's very true," Marentette said.

"Few other people will read that work they do in a typical class essay. Here, students were thrilled and scared to hear that other people will read this."

"Until it's happened a few times and people get some expertise in it, I don't know if we really know what its potential is," Marentette added. "I don't really need another flaming hoop for students. If they're not benefiting from it, then I don't need to do it."

Jennifer Branch-Mueller, a professor in the U of A's teacher-librarianship by distance learning program, sees another possible benefit from students using Wikipedia. Besides presenting their writing to a broader audience, digital evidence of these contributions also prepares students for pursuing careers after graduation.

"Having something on Wikipedia, having an e-portfolio, contributing to discussion and blogging, whatever it is, is good for a positive

digital presence," Branch-Mueller explained. "We always talk about digital citizenship, and it's really important that students think about if their employers are going to Google you, what are they going to see about you online."

The Wikimedia Foundation also sees this program as beneficial not just for students, as their contributions can help to inform a global audience.

"From my perspective, this will make (students') writing more meaningful to them."

PAULA MARENTETTE
PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

"There's this student at Georgetown University that, in the first semester of the public policy initiative about a year and a half ago, completely re-did an article about the democratic party in Egypt," Obar said.

"While the article was being edited and afterwards, a revolution happened in Egypt. So that student's article, the term paper that he did for his class, has received more than 100,000 hits since the article was finished."

Results like this have swayed professors formerly skeptical of Wikipedia to see its use in the classroom. Marentette says she'll use Wikipedia again next term, but plans to evaluate it afterward to determine whether to continue with the initiative.

"I would not use this in every course I teach forever, but I think that there's a place where this works," Marentette said.

U of A hosts evening talk with author Michael Ondaatje

Alex Migdal
NEWS EDITOR • @ALEXEM

Acclaimed Canadian author Michael Ondaatje graced the Winspear Centre last week as part of the University of Alberta's Festival of Ideas.

Although it was the only event in this year's festival, Ondaatje's presence still managed to fill most of the Winspear's 1,700 seats.

The writer was greeted by a swell of applause when walking on stage for the first time. He launched into a reading of some passages from his newest novel *The Cat's Table*, which recounts the adventures of an 11-year-old boy on an England-bound ship liner in the 1950s.

Following his reading, Ondaatje discussed the novel with Marina Endicott, a critically-lauded Canadian author currently based in Edmonton.

When referring to his latest novel, Ondaatje mused, "I knew I wanted to write about this sea journey I had taken which I could not remember at all, and I keep saying this, but no one believes me."

"Are you attacked by the virus of an idea?" Endicott asked shortly afterwards.

"I tend to not get attacked by ideas. It's an unfortunate thing. Someone once said to me, 'Do you have any (ideas) at all?' It wasn't praise," Ondaatje said.

"I know that that's a bad move from the beginning. Beginning with an idea, the idea runs out by page two. You have to rely on something else — a character, a situation, a time, or a location."

Ondaatje also answered a number of questions from the audience. One audience member asked Ondaatje how he managed to surmount his doubt in the early stages of his writing career.

"I think doubt is the great virtue for a writer," Ondaatje said. "I



SELENA PHILLIPS-BOYLE

probably have more doubt than I had in the beginning. ... I think with each book, you test yourself more, and with each book it gets harder and harder. It's not easier."

As the evening came to a close, in a moment of self-deprecating humour, Ondaatje admitted he was terrible at retelling stories.

"It's too bad you don't have that storytelling gift," Endicott joked.

Debra Pozega Osburn, the U of A's vice-president (university relations), said the idea behind the festival is for the university to "bring big thinkers, sometime controversial thinkers, and people with ideas that they don't mind exchanging with our various communities."

"Ondaatje fits the profile to a tee of the kind of folks we would want

to engage," Pozega Osburn said. "Obviously, he takes a thoughtful approach to the discussions he has. He really exemplifies the type of discussion we can have and the intellectual engagement authors are willing to have."

The festival typically runs every other year as a week-long event with a variety of speakers. However, Pozega Osburn said the U of A decided to host Ondaatje in this bridge year in order to maintain interest and keep the excitement of the festival alive.

Pozega Osburn also announced that evening that next year's festival will feature Thomas Sargent, winner of this year's Nobel economics prize, and iconic American author Fran Lebowitz.

Cultures unite to showcase diversity and spirit in World Music Sampler

Zaineب Hussein
NEWS STAFF

The deep bass of African drums, the mellow sounds of the Arab guitar, and Indian spiritual chants were all featured at the annual World Music Sampler last Saturday in the University of Alberta's convocation hall.

The event explored the eclectic musical styles of West Africa, India, the Middle East and North Africa, while showcasing diverse cultural instruments and traditional attire.

The evening started with a musical piece by renowned West African guitar master Koo Nimo, who also shared the tales behind his featured songs.

Nimo's talk was followed by a musical and dance performance by the West African Ensemble, a devotional musical by the Indian ensemble, and an orchestra of singers and musicians from the Middle Eastern and North African ensemble.

The ensembles are made up of individuals from a variety of backgrounds with an interest in world music or culture. Although students can take the ensemble course for credit, many take them as an audit course purely for the educational experience.

"It's so much fun to make music, and to make music together. We really want to invite everyone. It's not

just for students, it's for the community," said Sharmila Mathur, the performance director of the Indian ensemble.

Karim Gillani, the Indian ensemble's vocal coach, said half of his ensemble is of non-Indian origin.

"They sing so well that sometimes I wonder about the pronunciations and how they sing, because they sing sometimes better than the locals," Gillani said.

"Music also, in a way, is a language that does not speak in words. It speaks in how you feel, how you relate."

REGULA BURCKHARDT QURESHI
MUSIC PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Regula Burckhardt Qureshi, a U of A music professor, founded the event 10 years ago after arriving from a trip from India. Qureshi was eager to share her newfound love of Indian music with others, and wanted to take a new approach to teaching worldly music.

"I came back here, and I was teaching courses about world music. I said, 'You really can't understand music if you cannot play it, and you

have to (make) contact with how music is made,'" Qureshi said.

Since then, the program has evolved from its initial roots as an Indian group, and now includes a West African and a Middle Eastern-North African group, with dozens of students enrolled.

"Music also, in a way, is a language that does not speak in words. It speaks in how you feel, how you relate," Qureshi added.

The program doesn't just help teach audiences about other cultures, as many students learn about their own cultures as well.


"The ensemble brings together a diverse group of individuals from the university, as well as the Edmonton community, all sharing the same passion for music from the Middle Eastern and North African regions," said Reem Sheik, a U of A biological sciences graduate student.

"While I am Arab-speaking, I mostly enjoy learning new musical pieces in the different languages from the region.

"You get to learn that the Middle East is actually diverse in its languages as well as in culture, and that's something you get to experience in every musical piece that we showcase."


The ensemble courses are offered every September and are comprised of about 50 students.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US



The Black Dog's 19th Birthday Party
Monday December 5

COMIC BOOK CHARACTER STUDY



Rorschach

Pros: Resourceful and brutal combatant. Excellent detective skills. Continues vigilantism despite government crackdown. Enjoys beans.

Cons: Extreme political views. Kinda ugly. Smells like dog blood.

gateway comics

YOUR GATEWAY TO THE CRANK FILE

COMICS MEETINGS ARE TUESDAYS AT 3:30 PM IN 3-04 SUB



MOVEMBER FINALE HEADQUARTERS

WED NOV30 2011
OILERS VS WILD 7:30PM

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MATT HIRJI

A rock garden landscape for student learning on campus

Rachel Singer
NEWS STAFF

The University of Alberta's earth and atmospheric sciences department is in the middle of installing the second phase of the new geosciences rock garden located outside Biological Sciences.

"The concept of the geosciences garden is to teach students within our faculty some of the skills and get them comfortable with some of the experiences in the campus environment before we send them off to field school," said John Waldron, an EAS professor and part of the team who has helped design and implement the rock garden.

The project was initially launched in 2008 with the support of a science faculty fund, allowing 15 rocks to be installed as part of the first phase.

The department later received a second grant from a teaching and learning fund, which has allowed

them to move forward with project's second phase.

This phase will extend the rock garden from Tory Lecture to the Faculty Club with 40 additional rocks, and will be arranged in a way similar to the way that a real landscape would tell a story, according to Waldron.

"The geosciences rock garden represents a traverse across the Canadian cordillera and across the sedimentary basin that occupies Alberta and Saskatchewan onto the Canadian Shield," Waldron explained.

"We will have samples of rocks that are quite representative from B.C. across to the Canadian Shield."

Some of the variety of rocks featured in the garden include sedimentary rocks, limestone, granitoid rocks and metamorphic rocks.

Waldron said the largest rock weighs about 16 tons, while the smallest one weighs a couple hundred pounds. Some rocks are also

millions of years old, including a group of rocks from the Triassic period that are 200 million years old.

Part of the phase two installations will also include a rock of magnetite buried at a secret location on campus. Magnetite is an iron ore that is very magnetic, and it will be used by geophysics classes in order to teach them how to search for magnetic rocks.

Although the rock garden will mainly be used by EAS students, Waldron hopes it will also be used and enjoyed by the rest of the community.

"The primary focus is the support of our own students, but we also have the rest of the community in mind as well," Waldron said.

"We hope that members of the public, students in other classes, and school teachers with their classes will come to learn."

Phase two of the geosciences rock garden is expected to be completed this summer.

First set of teeth grew outside mouth

Fossil records indicate teeth were initially prickly cheek scales or wrapped around lips

Katherine Speur
NEWS STAFF • @KATHERINESPEUR

Researchers at the University of Alberta have discovered that teeth once grew outside of the mouth before evolving into the oral cavity.

The team, led by U of A researcher Stephanie Blais, has discovered evidence that suggests what the first set of teeth would have looked like. Their research negates the "inside-out theory," which presumes that teeth once grew in the pharynx.

The team's study suggests teeth were initially more like prickly cheek scales or small teeth wrapped around lips, supporting teeth evolution's "outside-in" hypothesis instead.

Blais and her team specifically focused on an extinct group of small spiny fishes called ischnacanthid acanthodians and shark-like fish called obtusacanthus.

The ischnacanthid acanthodians were distinct from other fish because their teeth were attached to their jaw bones. The obtusacanthus had no teeth, but rather pointy lip scales.

The fossils for these creatures were

excavated in the Mackenzie Mountains in the Northwest Territories, and were in the University of Alberta collections when Blais initially discovered them.

"I found these specimens have been in the U of A collections for quite some time and they just haven't really been worked on in a lot of detail," Blais said.

"We don't remember how important (teeth) are. They are one of those things that we really don't understand much about."

STEPHANIE BLAIS
RESEARCHER, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

"They've been looked at but not focused on really ... that's what I've been doing. These are the first fossil examples where it starts off looking like a scale and then (looks) like a tooth further down."

According to Blais, the evolution of teeth and the formation of jaws was a result of natural

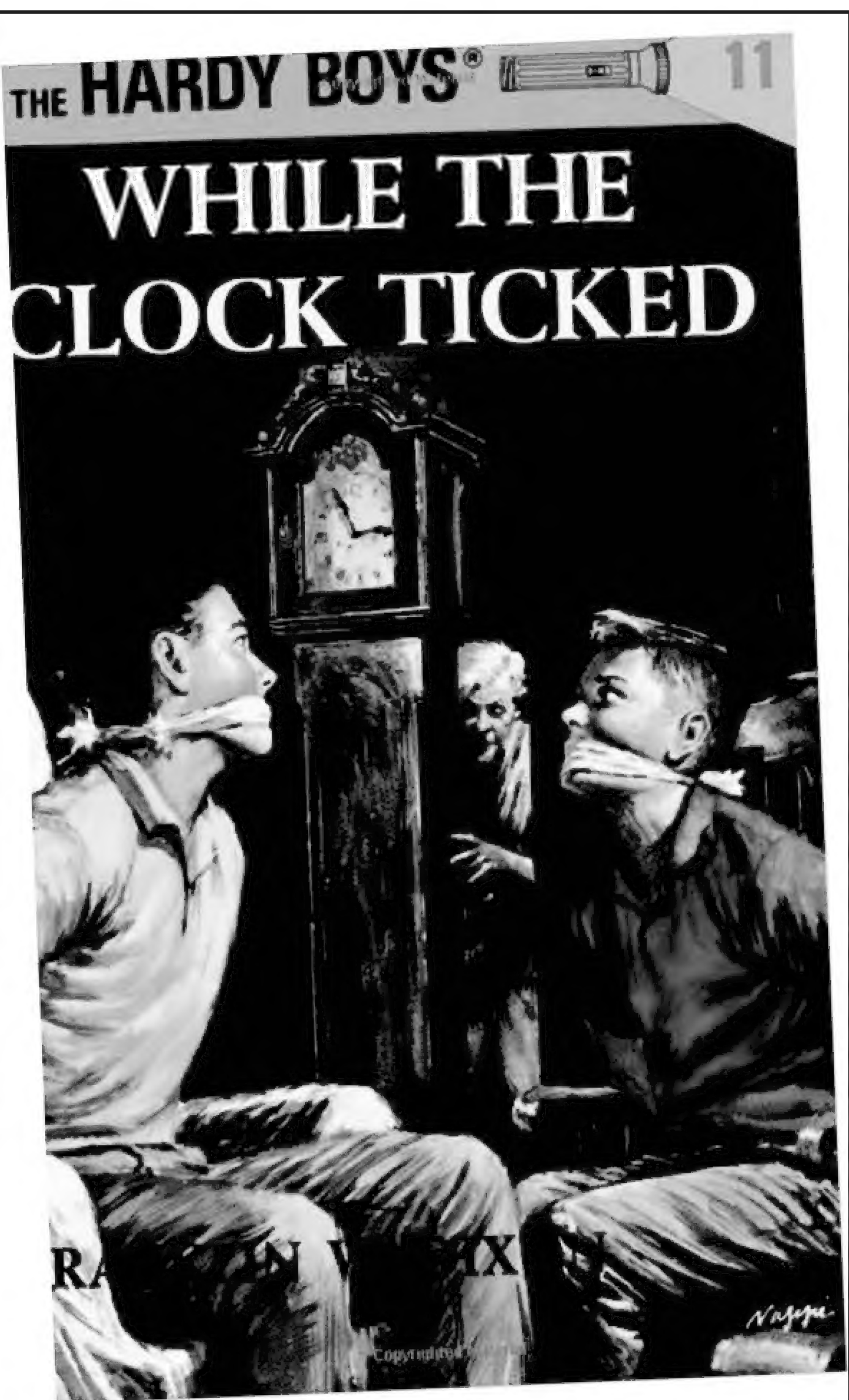
selection, giving an advantage to the vertebrates who eventually turned into predators.

Blais is currently working on her doctoral thesis in the department of biological sciences, and has been specifically focusing on teeth for the past year. Blais said teeth are more significant than people think, and believes her research covers a subject that is often ignored.

"We don't remember how important (teeth) are. They are one of those things that we really don't understand much about," Blais said. "I thought it was an interesting puzzle to try to figure out. Where (are) all these teeth going into each other? Are they the same kind of teeth? And how do they use them?"

Blais' future research plans involve more teeth-related studies, including looking into how teeth were once used and compare to others.

"I'm working on identifying new species ... but eventually I'd like to look at how the (fish) use their teeth because that's something else we really don't know. Then I would like to examine teeth in other groups and see how they are related to each other."



The clock is ticking and the year is nearly halfway done, so make sure to write for Gateway news while you can (or else the consequences will never be the same).

**gateway
news**

**Your gateway to being
kidnapped by creepy old men**

**NEWS MEETINGS
FRIDAYS AT 3 PM
IN 3-04 SUB**

online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA/NEWS

Opinion

Opinion Editor

Ryan Bromsgrove

Phone

780.492.6661

Email

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca

Volunteer

Opinion meetings Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in 3-04 SUB. C'mon by!

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Government ignored Attawapisket crisis

IN OCTOBER, CHIEF THERESA SPENCE OF THE ATTAWAPISKET First Nation in James Bay, Ontario, declared a state of emergency on the reserve. People have been living in converted garages and what are essentially garden sheds with no heat or effective sanitation, and winter is approaching. It's time for the government to step in.

In a situation the United Nurses of Ontario have decried as “inhumane,” photographs of crowded one-room shacks and children with rashes all over their bodies caused by a lack of clean water have been circulating news sites since last week, following Ontario NDP MP Charlie Angus' visit.

Spence is quoted in the *Ottawa Citizen* on Nov. 19, saying that “it's really a crisis we're facing in our community. It's time for the government to accept and understand what is going on, and deal with it. Because right now, no one is stepping in.”

That is precisely the problem in Attawapisket. Neither the Ontario provincial government nor the federal government seem to want to take responsibility for the deplorable conditions. According to Angus, it's the province's responsibility to deal with education, fire safety, building codes and water. Yet when the people of the reserve ask, the province tells them that they're the responsibility of the federal government.

And if it's the federal government's job, they're clearly not doing it well. In an email to the *Huffington Post*, a representative of John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development stated that “the government recently invested approximately \$500,000 to Attawapisket First Nation so that work to renovate five vacant units could be completed as soon as possible.” But that's not enough. Chief Spence has stated that the area needs 250 homes to adequately house the people of Attawapisket. And they're not the only community stricken in this way: the state of emergency declaration covers two other First Nations communities in the region.

In a statement issued Tuesday, the office of Stephen Harper announced that it was “not very happy” with the situation in Attawapisket, but they have no one to blame but themselves. A lack of oversight on the government's part means that despite over \$90 million dollars in federal funding entering the community since 2006, people are living in shacks. Clearly there is a problem somewhere along the line, and for more than five years, the government had ample time to notice the failure of those funds to accomplish anything — and it raises questions about how these funds are being allocated in other communities across the country.

While the Red Cross works with Angus to try to bring aid to the community, the government bureaus actually responsible for the region continue to do nothing. The failure of the federal and provincial governments to co-operate or accept any responsibility in order to elevate its citizens out of unconscionable squalor is shameful.

Admittedly, the government's track record with regards to First Nations people is not exactly exemplary, but now is not too soon to start fixing that. Both the federal and provincial governments need to get the people of Attawapisket into housing that reflects other Canadians' standard of living, before someone dies of exposure.

Dan McKechnie

PHOTO EDITOR

MICROTORIAL COMMENT

Three days of dodgeball

IT WAS A SHORT-LIVED DODGEBALL CAREER FOR *THE GATEWAY'S* team at last weekend's Campus Cup. Despite the abysmal 0-3 record, one shared by eight other dodgeball neophyte teams, it was a great weekend for which the organizers at the Students' Union and the Lister Dodgeball League should be congratulated.

And it was great because of more than just the competition. With a school of almost 38,000 students, it's a rare occasion that even a fraction of those get together for a single event. Our sports teams play at South Campus, far from most students, drawing small crowds. And in the academic realm, the closest thing to the nearly 700 participants in Campus Cup is a 100-level psychology class.

But for some reason, dodgeball can bring together students and staff from various faculties and departments all across the university. Walking around between games, players were comparing war stories, bragging about amazing victories and consoling each other in bitter-sweet defeat. For a few hours on Saturday, you couldn't turn around without seeing a team heading off to a game or sharing a meal.

It felt like the entire campus was living and breathing dodgeball.

Finally, the Decepticons won in front of what seemed to be a capacity crowd at the David Tuckey gym. And rest assured, Dis-Orientation Councillors of the Sea, *The Gateway* hasn't forgotten our loss. We will avenge ourselves.

Justin Bell

MANAGING EDITOR



ROSS VINCENT

letters to the editor

FROM THE WEB

Arts Dean's action with cuts disappointing

Great article! Definitely good to have a light-hearted laugh in this situation. One comment though: I do not feel sorry for Lesley. I understand that there is a bottom line, and sometimes, it comes down to the numbers.

What I despise is how she has gone about a number of things surrounding the situation, and she has chosen, every step of the way, how to behave. From how transparent to be about the situation, to how available she is choosing to be to her faculty, staff and students alike, to simply acknowledging how awful this process is for everyone who is involved (and has been since June, I might add), I simply cannot respect her choices in handling this matter.

I'm sure it's not easy to be a dean. But right now, it's not easy to be a NASA staff member either. Her Faculty is floundering and my job is at risk.

“CH”

VIA INTERNET

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Engineers fight against the scourge of apathy

I was somewhat dismayed to read your editorial of Jan. 4, 1968, “the way it really was.” Your statement “Funny thing that dropouts from playschool should make it all the way to this great institution” inferred that engineers

are stupid.

Firstly, may I remind you that engineering is one of the toughest faculties at this univeristy, and it requires a good deal of hard work along with some intelligence to pass this four year course.

I transferred from science to engineering after two years at university and have found considerably more spirit in the engineering faculty and also, people of approximately the same intelligence. I do not regret the switch in any way.

Secondly, you have mentioned many times in *The Gateway* the great amount of apathy on this campus. Yet when some group on the campus, such as the engineers, lead some pranks or original stunts, all we get are loud “boos.” Thus you classify us as “drop-outs from playschool.”

If engineers lack leadership qualities, why has the ESS been approached by the Students' Union to help with such functitons as the Christmas Foofra for Santas Anonymous? I suggest that is because certain groups on campus recognize the fact that the engineering faculty has for many years been a leader in a somewhat losing cause to overcome student apathy. And remarks such as yours can only serve to deter the engineers from helping with campus activities and create more hostility. Remember, if you treat us like human beings, we will treat you and the rest of the campus like humans. Do you not feel apologies are in order?

George R. Cushon

JAN. 30, 1968

Embarrassing, small Gateway mistakes throughout history

Upon reading your Feb. 23 edition of *The Gateway*, I was impressed with the coverage you gave your intervarsity sports.

However, I was somewhat disappointed when I read your article on the WCIAA championship track meet.

In the last paragraph, you stated that “As expected, the talent-laden UBC squad, considered the best university team in Canada, took the meet.”

Well, UBC may have been favourites but they are not the best team in Canada as they lost the meet by one point to the University of Saskatchewan team.

I trust the error will be corrected. Keep up the good work.

Rodger Williams

MARCH 12, 1968

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student ID number to be considered for publication.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION DAN MCKECHNIE

Polygamy ban rightly upheld



Darcy Ropchan
OPINION STAFF

Because of the inherent risk to women and children, Canada's polygamy laws will thankfully be upheld. That's the reason given by Robert Bauman, B.C. Supreme Court judge, for the court's recent ruling that the law denying multiple marriages is constitutional.

Many are happy that the outdated practice is still considered unconstitutional, but critics of the decision are claiming the ruling infringes on the religious rights and freedoms of Canadians. But given the potential harm for women and children in polygamous situations, this ruling is for the best.

The ruling comes in response to the case against Winston Blackmore, leader of the polygamist Mormon sect Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints based out of Bountiful, B.C., who was charged with polygamy in 2009. Mainstream Mormonism broke with the tradition of polygamy in 1890, and Mormons who do follow polygamy are considered fundamentalists and are excommunicated from the church.

Throughout this whole legal battle, Blackmore, married 25 times and with 121 children, has been defiant, insisting "I am who I am. We are who we are. In 1985 it was a criminal activity to commit adultery, and somehow somebody got that changed." What Blackmore fails to understand is that this isn't about religious freedom, or what the definition of marriage should be, it's about the safety and well-being of vulnerable people.

With a case like Blackmore and the high number of wives and children he has, it's impossible to argue for the sanctity of polygamous marriage.

Judge Bauman made the right call when it comes to the issue of polygamy. Although Pierre Trudeau once said, "The state has no business in the bedrooms of the nation," there are certain rights that need to come before others, and the safety of women and children is one of those rights. The provisions for religious rights and freedoms outlined in the Canadian Constitution are meant to protect Canadians' right to pursue religious fulfillment and protect

them from unwarranted persecution. But lines need to be drawn: a lot can be said and done in the name of religion.

In polygamous marriages, there is a high risk for physical, emotional and sexual abuse towards women — the RCMP are investigating allegations of young women being transported across the U.S. border so that they can be married to much older men in other fundamentalist Mormon communities. Children, especially girls, born into polygamous families are taught from a young age to believe that polygamous marriages are an accepted family institution and that girls must marry someone as soon as they can.

With a case like Blackmore and the high number of wives and children he has, it's impossible to argue for the sanctity of polygamous marriage. These women aren't beloved wives: they're trophies.

Polygamy is no longer relevant, and there's no justification for it in modern society. It should be enough to discredit the institution that the majority of practising Mormons reject this practice and try to distance themselves from it. Blackmore is trying to hide behind the constitution in order to legitimize his own selfish desires, and though freedom of religion is his right, it cannot eclipse the basic human rights and safety of other individuals.

Police crashes damage public trust



Nathan Chu
OPINION WRITER

In movies, cops are usually expert car drivers who turn down the globe-trotting F1 circuit for a more modest living. But that's not the situation when it comes to Edmonton's police officers.

EPS Connect, an Edmonton Police Service internal newspaper, recently reported there have been 171 collisions in 2011 involving police-operated cruisers. That number has risen to 183 since the article was published. Of those 183 accidents, 58 were the result of other motorists crashing into police cruisers.

But that suggests there were 125 collisions that could have been prevented through cautious driving.

Sergeant Tony Simioni — the president of the Edmonton Police Association — has attributed this situation to the large number of younger officers currently in the work force and their inexperience with judging how urgently they need to respond to emergency calls.

That would seem like a reasonable explanation, except that 80 per cent of the collisions occurred during general patrolling and not while on the way to emergency situations. Police Superintendent Brad Doucette

"These incidents are quite frankly embarrassing to the EPS, and reflect poor attentiveness and responsibility from officers. In addition to causing inconvenience to other motorists, they are endangering those they are meant to serve and protect."

has also said 25 per cent of these accidents happened while officers were "backing up" from places such as parking stalls. There's absolutely no excuse for that.

We all love our Timmy's coffee to go, but that doesn't mean you have to recklessly floor it to back out of the stall.

These incidents are quite frankly embarrassing to the EPS, and reflect poor attentiveness and responsibility from officers. In addition to causing inconvenience to other motorists, they are endangering those they are meant to serve and protect.

The total number of preventable crashes by police officers should be at or near zero. Doucette has estimated the cost of these incidents to be totalling in the "hundreds of thousands of dollars" and every cent spent on damages from preventable collisions is a waste of tax payers' money.

Police officers are granted certain privileges in order to serve citizens, but when the siren isn't singing, they aren't any different from other vehicles on the road. The article warns that officers can be ticketed for any road infractions while on duty, but that brings up all sorts of "who polices the police"

concerns. The problem arises when it comes to actually issuing such tickets. Nobody would want to create an awkward workplace situation by issuing a fine to a fellow officer for something like not coming to a complete stop at a stop sign. It's likely they'll let many offenses slide.

Driver training courses are being offered by the EPS, but that won't solve the lack of accountability on the part of police officers. Instead, officers that are at fault for a collision should be subject to harsher penalties.

This could include restricting car privileges and forcing the guilty constable to patrol the streets in the barren winter weather for a certain amount of time. In doing this, EPS will both subject their officers to the higher degree of responsibility that is expected of them by citizens, and it will deter reckless driving habits.

With the full brunt of winter almost upon us, road conditions are only going to get worse and accidents are inevitably going to happen. Until the collision statistics for the EPS improves, I'm going to have my eye on officers like they were old ladies who can't see over the steering wheel.

ASS OF THE WEEK?



O N T A R I O

Ontario Liberals

The Ontario Liberals are paying former economist Don Drummond \$1,500 per day to help them with a report to show them how to reduce their \$16-billion deficit. Worth it, or assy waste of money?

gateway opinion

MEETINGS WEDNESDAY AT 5 IN 3-04 SUB

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Canadian assisted suicide laws need to be changed



Joel Aspden
OPINION WRITER

Sue Rodriguez, 42 years old and suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease, wanted to change the law and give herself a dignified death. In a video statement to Parliament about her plea for assisted suicide, she said this: "If I cannot give consent to my own death, whose body is this? Who owns my life?"

She lost her case and committed suicide two years later, with the help of an anonymous doctor, in 1994.

Lou Gehrig's disease is a fatal neurodegenerative disease that affects neurons in the motor system while leaving a patient's personality, memory and intelligence intact. So while Rodriguez may have seemed to some on the outside that she wasn't of sound mind, she was quite clearly speaking from her heart. Unfortunately, sincerity only speaks so loud to ignorant people.

The issue was recently brought up again in British Columbia where Gloria Taylor, who also suffers from Lou Gehrig's, has decided to follow in the footsteps of Rodriguez. Rather than wait for paralysis and suffocation to slowly rid her of her life, Taylor wants to be able to end her life with dignity, in the presence and comfort of those she loves. She is pleading for her right to have freedom of choice over her own death, even when she becomes physically unable to express it.

In Canada, helping someone commit suicide can land you right where Jack Kevorkian ended up: in jail. However, a few European countries and some U.S. states do not have such freedom-depriving laws, and are havens for people trapped in their own bodies, victims of their own consciousness.

In lieu of recent events, Taylor may have a glimmer of hope here in



RIGHT TO DIE Gloria Taylor campaigns to change the law around euthanasia. SUPPLIED

Canada. A panel of experts from the Royal Society of Canada, a distinguished group devoted to the "promotion of learning and research in the arts and sciences," have come out strongly in favour of changing our federal policy in a report published Nov. 15.

The RSC has recognized that although there are international differences surrounding the issue, there is a consensus that people should be able to end their lives under the following conditions: the request must be voluntary, repeated over time, certified and carried out by a doctor, and must be made by a legally competent adult. These conditions are fair, and not hard to meet.

The RSC also reported that in places with an enacted assisted-death policy, there has been no evidence of a "slippery slope" of deaths occurring without legal consent. As a framework for helping to establish a national assisted-death policy, the mentioned requirements would help ease qualms about accidents and

felonies occurring under the protection of the policy. This in effect gives peace-of-mind to patients and their families in palliative care while still giving an assisted-death option to those who need it.

With the recent RSC report, the push for a national assisted-death policy is gaining momentum and might give people like Gloria Taylor the break they deserve. It's not our job to play god with the lives of others. Rather, it is our responsibility to uphold and protect freedom of choice for everyone, even if your choice is to end your own life.

Canada needs to show respect for those who are suffering and allow them to pass-on without a fear of indignity. Removing a person's right to die means removing their individual sense of autonomy and freedom. If we can't respect a person's most honest convictions about their own existence fearing they are not in an appropriate state of mind, then we are the ones with the ill minds.

THE gateway

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Student-at-Large Board Members

The Gateway Student Journalism Society requires a Student-At-Large from the university community to serve on the Board of Directors of the paper for the term from January 1, 2012 to April 30, 2012.

Applicants:

- must be U of A students
- must not be members of Students' Council, General Faculties Council, the U of A Board of Governors, or the Senate of the U of A
- must not be current Gateway volunteers

If you are interested, please submit a brief note (no more than 400 words) on why you'd be a good candidate for the position. Please outline previous volunteer experience and not-for-profit organization experience if applicable (though not necessary).

Application deadline: Dec 14, 2011

Applicants should submit 400 words max to Gateway Business Manager:
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To the person who took my jump-drive from Rutherford computer lab: call the damn number on the tag, so I can have my work back! Make a good choice.

the staff in hub's java jive are so nice!!

I wouldn't be walking on the wrong side of hub if I didn't have to! Why do people need to walk so slowly, don't you have places to be?

Ugh, hate how I'm so shy. I was sitting right next to you and I said nothing... definitely a big regret. :(Popularity leads to intimacy.

Four and a half years and an immeasurable amount of stress and frustration... What do I feel like I've gained? Absolutely nothing. why does the ladies room on chem fourth smell so fucking terrible??? i got completely lost in some dryer-fresh sheets on friday.

To the couple that always whisper behind me in class: SHUT UP! Also, get your feet off my backpack.

Memo to undergrads. Law school makes you fat and takes a toll on your mental health. It's not an easy path. You've been warned.

Theres a big lack of Andrew and Tyler in the paper. Bring them off the web and into print so we can see their faces!

Is anyone else STILL waiting for their health/dental plan opt out refund? Or am I the only one???

I had sex on campus last week. And I'm not telling anywhere where I did it, because I have 2 years left here and I damn well intend on using that spot again and again and again.

Did those two in CMPUT 114 ever hook up?

I need closure on the CMPUT 114 situation!

You may think i'm reading a gateway, but i'm really staring at assess as they walk by.

Re: breakfast food. I've got I've word for you. Donairs.

This weekend I listened to a five-year-old tell a story about becoming a frog and hopping around in a forest and shit. I swear she was tripping balls.

Thank God bulk barn
Seriously, who benefits from Xmas music in lister caf?

Bitches forgot cupcakes are both sweet AND tasty.

I wholeheartedly and monetarily support Movember's cause, but holy F can I not wait to be able to tell if guys are hot or not again!

Dammit christmas music already. I'm dying, here

Chicken curry night was awesome! Can't wait for turkey

Try typing on dvorak yo. So comfortable

I love it when I meet new people and they say "I've heard stories about you." Makes up for the school-caused lack of a social life.

SHUT THAT HOLE IN YOUR FACE! Silent floor does not equal quiet floor. Quiet = little sound. Silent = NO SOUND. SHUT THE FUCK UP!

The Gateway reserves the right to edit any submissions, as well as refuse publication of any submission it finds racist, sexist, hateful, libellous or overtly offensive. The Gateway cannot guarantee that your submission will be used (but we'll try). Submissions should be 130 characters max (including spaces).

Turns out Nexopia's as alive and pointless as ever



Adrian Lahola-Chomiak
OPINION STAFF

Be 14 again. Be in junior high with hormones surging through fun new parts of your body, breakouts on your face and socially-awkward behaviour your default. Now try to remember having to communicate through the asshole of social networks: Nexopia.

We were a special generation in that we were there before the social network boom, before Facebook swept up the whole planet.

Everyone complains about Zuckerberg's empire, but at least it's better than sites like Myspace and Nexopia, right? I think we all assumed that those places died a deserved death years ago.

I had earned both the titles "senorita" and "cutie" just by virtue of my comically fake info.

So imagine my surprise when on a whim I Googled Nexopia, only to discover that not only was it still alive, but it was very much kicking.

They've kept this outhouse in workable shape with more than 7,000 active members online at a time, on average. Of course as any rational individual would have done, like a digital archaeologist, I put aside my dignity and created a brand spanking new Nexopia account, ready to observe this remnant of social networking past.

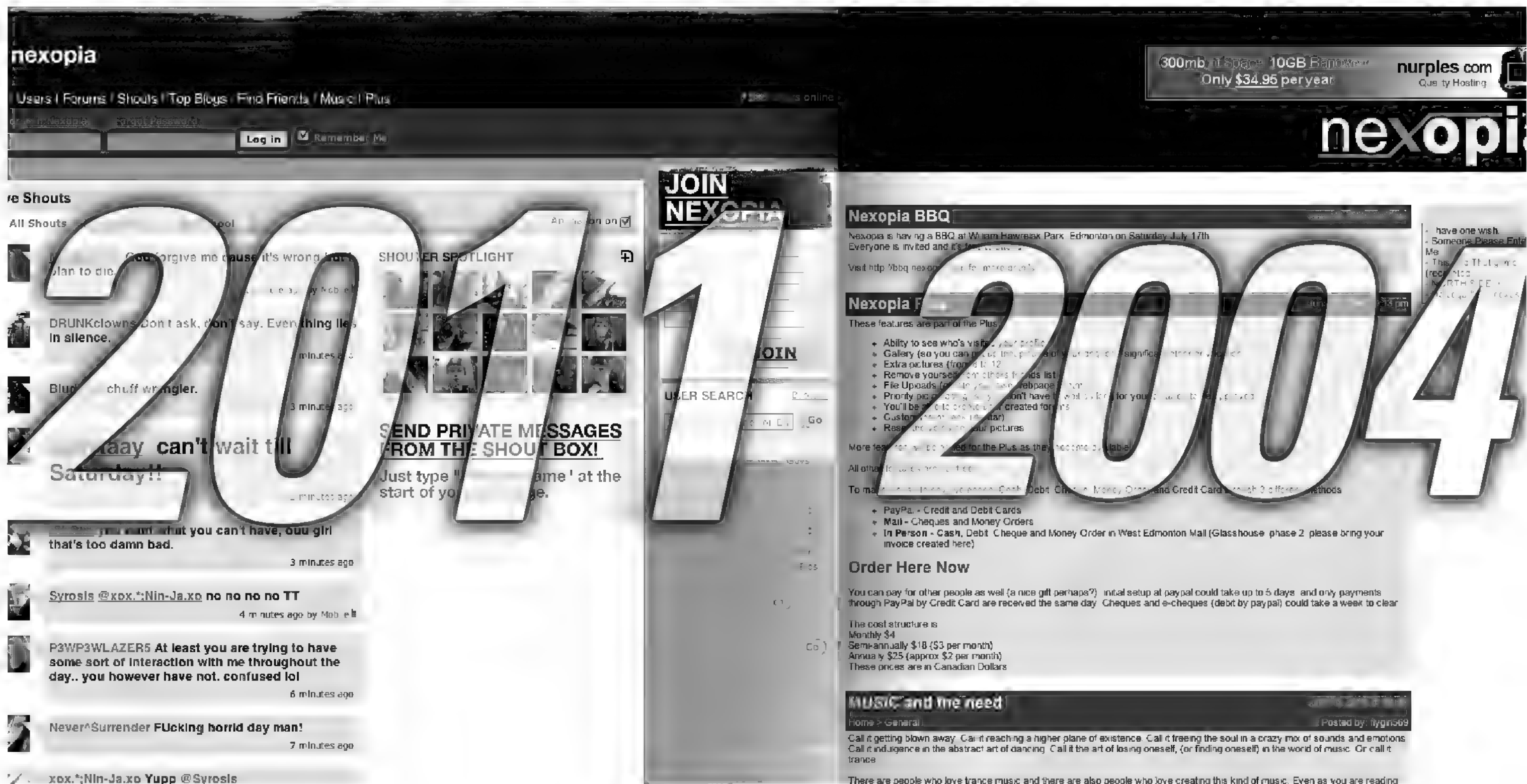


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAN MCKECHANIE

Like most adult males on the site, my account was for a 17-year-old girl, playing off the age-old internet dynamic of "girls get attention, guys give attention." I wanted to be the creepee, not the creeper.

In order to make the disguise believable, I littered the page with enough text speak and emoticons to confuse even the most cunning linguist. I went with an air of unwarranted confidence and faux innocence to flesh out the content and make it more in line with other users' accounts.

Most importantly though, I pimped my page by covering it in an Edward and Jacob-heavy Twilight theme. The

transformation was complete. Not only did I feel like I was an annoying teenager, I looked like it too.

Within a week of not actually trying to talk to anyone or interact with whatever community lurks the forums, I already had two messages waiting in my inbox. I had earned both the titles "senorita" and "cutie" just by virtue of my comically fake info and Google-searched profile picture.

The diction, usernames, interests and profile pictures of my suitors were reminiscent of the Nexopia I remembered — a Nexopia where creepy guys browse profiles and e-flirt at will.

Unlike Facebook, which generally encourages you to tie your stupidity to your name, Nexopia gives you the freedom to be a shirtless douchebag named "hungdawg43," with nobody asking questions.

The popped-collar bros and last remaining vestige of the once-ubiquitous scene kids are here, making their last stand, valiantly trying to get the "first" comment, and fighting the smouldering flame war over who's the biggest poser.

Nexopia was never much of a social network. And, as I've found, it still isn't. It's more like a bathroom stall wall covered in the annoying messages of countless anonymous

teens and the occasional 50-year-old guy. After spending a solid week and a half observing the site, I can safely say that, yes, the rest of us are better off on sites like Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr.

That's when I realized that to this younger generation, maybe the circle-jerking around the question of "which prfle pic loks btr? lol" is exactly what they need. If so, I salute you after all, Nexopia. Keep the annoying teenagers in one place, so we grown-ups don't have to deal with them. And keep my creepy 17-year-old girl profile to fruitlessly arouse your older male clients for years to come.

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Remembering a time when Europe was cool



Opinion Staff
GROUP COMMENTARY

Europe is pretty much screwed right now. This week, *The Gateway* looks beyond the austerity riots and economic breakdowns at a few of the countries that used to be cool.

Joel Aspden

Switzerland was cool — 100 million years ago, when the only things around were pointy mountains and big-ass dinosaurs. Dinosaurs weren't afraid to get their hands dirty and take sides. But nowadays, tranquil neutrality seems to be the name of their haughty little game.

And then, I hate to say it because I really like their chocolates, but Switzerland is also Europe's unwanted hipster teenager, and it's not cool. The land-locked country seems to be the best at moving against the norm while flaunting their la-di-da nonsense in the faces of other nations.

When I go to the store to buy cheese, I don't want a bunch of holes in it. I want a nice solid block of cheddar or mozzarella that I can slice evenly and put on crackers. It's just one of many examples of the Swiss trying to be different.

And I'll warn you, if you're planning on travelling to Switzerland, expect to be broke when you get back. The only time I've even been to Switzerland was on a two hour stop-over on the train from Italy to France. My family and I decided we



EUROPE'S BURNING The continent may be seething with financial strife, but it wasn't always this bad. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAN MCKECHNIE

didn't want to go far from the station because of all our luggage, but we did want a bite to eat. We went to McDonalds across the street and ended up paying nearly a year's salary for a chicken nugget.

Switzerland is like a clingy girlfriend that takes all your money, lives in your apartment, but then doesn't take your side in an argument against your arch-nemesis. The only thing she's missing is a pair of vintage head-phones, a Broken Social Scene album and a scarf. Bring back the dinosaurs, Switzerland, then maybe we'll talk.

Ryan Bromsgrove

Used to be the sun never set on the British Empire. Not so any more. Canada was a part of it, of course, but so were India, Australia, a selection of African territories between Egypt and South Africa, a slew of Pacific Islands and more.

Sure, colonialism wasn't cool, but the UK was a lot more impressive than it is now. I mean, imagine you were in the upper classes in the 18th century. Between glasses of port and monocle polishings, you could meet with diplomats the world

over, idle your days away dreaming of poetry on your lavish country estate, or live up the gentleman scientist archetype in your eccentric London manor.

But no more. Once controlling one quarter of the world's population with territory on every inhabited continent, its influence and power sharply diminished over the last century. All that's left is the commonwealth — for whatever good that does anyone — and a few rocks here and there.

With exorbitant tuition increases, the country's youth is being left to

stagnate. Riots broke out over the summer, the coalition government is slashing services wherever it can, the *News of the World* closed amidst an ethically-aborrent phone hacking scandal and finally — and this is the worst part — I think the monocle factories have actually shut down entirely.

If that's not the saddest thing you've ever heard, I can't imagine what is.

Nick Ong

Being a nerd myself, I feel that Ancient Greece was the most awesome of the ancient civilizations. Coming into power more than 2,000 years ago, they were an entire civilization of nerds — the Sheldon Coopers of their time.

The ancient Greeks invented philosophy, theatre, history and democracy. They vastly improved the fields of mathematics, astronomy and medicine. They wrote epics and carved buildings such as the Parthenon that lasted millennia. Their inventions, such as the Archimedes screw, the aqueduct, the Hippocratic oath and the number pi, are still used today. Arguably, they even invented the first meme: "eureka." In short, they were the first civilization to truly make sense of the world we live in.

What happened, Greece? You've come a long way in the wrong direction since then.

Rather than continuing the legacy of furthering the boundaries of human knowledge, you're instead bringing Europe down with massive debt. That's a far cry from calculating the number of sand grains that would fill the universe.



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Volunteer

A&C meetings Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in 3-04 SUB.

social intercourse

 COMPILED BY **Alana Willerton**
GATEWAY DODGEDALL'S SECRET WEAPON

Conversation with the Artist: Arlene Wasylynychuk

 Presented by the RBC New Works Gallery
Thursday, Dec. 1 at 6 p.m.

 Art Gallery of Alberta (2 Sir Winston
Churchill Square)

\$8 admission

Arguably one of the most visually stimulating exhibits currently on display at the AGA, *Saltus Illuminati* is an abstractly ethereal forest of art fabricated from rolled up paintings lit from within. Created by Arlene Wasylynychuk in conjunction with the RBC New Works Gallery series, exclusively featuring work by Alberta artists, now is your chance to pick its creator's brain, with an interactive presentation on *Saltus Illuminati* in the exhibition space.

Stuart McLean and the Vinyl Café Christmas Tour 2011

Sunday, Dec. 4 at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Jubilee Auditorium (11455 87 Ave.)

Starting at \$53.40 at ticketmaster.ca

One of Canada's most beloved storytellers is coming to Edmonton just in time to kick off the Christmas season. The host of the popular CBC Radio program *The Vinyl Café*, broadcaster Stuart McLean will be sharing a selection of his best stories from the show, which has been running for more than 15 years. Staying with the tradition of featuring Canadian musicians, this live performance also includes performances by the *Vinyl Café* Orchestra and guest Hawksley Workman.

The Room

Presented by Metro Cinema

Written and directed by Tommy Wiseau

Friday, Dec. 2 at 11 p.m.

Garneau Theatre (8712 109 St.)

\$8 admission

The Room could be considered a cinematic masterpiece or the worst film ever made. Despite its famed reputation as "the *Citizen Kane* of bad movies," *The Room* has somehow managed to worm its way into a spot as a cult classic with a devout following. Now screened on a monthly basis by Metro Cinema, the movie follows the story of Johnny, a banker who lives a normal existence with his fiancée, Lisa. But unbeknownst to Johnny, the unhappy Lisa is having an affair with his best friend Mark, despite the rapidly approaching wedding. While the storyline may sound tame enough, you'll have to check out *The Room* for yourself to see just what all the hype is about.

A Christmas Carol

Directed by Bob Baker and Geoffrey Brumlik

Adapted by Tom Wood

Starring Richard McMillan

Runs Saturday, Dec. 3 – Friday,

Dec. 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Citadel Theatre (9828 101A Ave.)

Starting at \$77.70 at the Citadel box office

The story of *A Christmas Carol* is a staple of Edmonton's Christmas theatre season. For more than a decade, Tom Wood's adaptation of the well-known Charles Dickens tale has enchanted audiences with its story of Ebenezer Scrooge and the three ghosts of Christmas past, present and future that visit him in the night. A Citadel Theatre tradition now in its 12th season, *A Christmas Carol* is a must-see for the Scrooge in all of us.

Wacky characters untangle truth in Studio Theatre's *Fuddy Meers*

THEATRE PREVIEW

Fuddy Meers

WHEN Runs Thursday, Dec. 1 Saturday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m., preview show Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE Timms Centre for the Arts
(87 Avenue and 112 Street)

WRITTEN BY David Lindsay-Abaire

DIRECTED BY Ron Jenkins

STARRING Laura Metcalfe, Brent Gill, Evan Hall, Perry Gratton, Julia Guy, Stuart Fink and Rachel Victoria Steele

HOW MUCH \$10 at the Timms Centre box office

Jacquelin Gregoire

ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

Combine the outlandish comedy of *50 First Dates* with a deliciously deranged plot and characters that are flat out bonkers and you have *Fuddy Meers*, U of A Studio Theatre's latest production.

Claire (Laura Metcalfe) is the apparent twin of the forgetful character from the Adam Sandler film. Her memory is wiped clean every night due to a form of psychogenic amnesia, and she wakes up every morning to meet her husband Richard (Brent Gill) and troubled son Kenny (Evan Hall), whom she doesn't remember at all. The family falls into a somewhat normal routine until the day a lisping, limping man (Perry Gratton) appears from under Claire's bed, claiming he can save her. Her already bizarre life then spirals even further out of control as she embarks on a new journey, meeting a mysterious lady-cop (Rachel Victoria Steele), an oddball brandishing a bad-mouthed hand puppet (Stuart Fink) and a gibberish-speaking granny (Julia Guy) — all who seem to be part of the life she thought she'd forgotten.

“My favourite part of (*Fuddy Meers*) is the tragedy — the twisted, sinister side of it — because that's what makes it special. In this play there are seven truly challenged people who catch the audience's eye and keep surprising them in strange and unexpected ways.”

 JULIA GUY
GERTIE, *FUDDY MEERS*

While comedy is the driving aspect of the show, actor Evan Hall believes it's the truthfulness of the characters that make it successful.

"Comedy's hard," he admits. "There's a lot in the script, and a lot you can build in, but it's not funny if you don't believe it. So we have to find a way to take these absurd moments and make them real. When it's grounded and real for the character, that's when it's funny for the audience."

Making such preposterous characters relatable for an audience can be a difficult feat, but the cast agrees that finding similarities between themselves and their onstage alter-egos is easier than it seems. Crazy people, after all, can feel desire and confusion, but with more destructive results.

Actor Perry Gratton, tasked with immersing himself in the role of an old, crippled man, says he identifies with his character's inner strife rather than getting caught up in the physical flaws of his character.

"I can relate (to the character) in terms of



SELENA PHILLIPS-BOYLE

insecurities that I may have about my body or the way I speak, and how that gets in the way of what I want and how people perceive me — extended a million times," he says.

While the comedic aspects of *Fuddy Meers* are important, the layers of meaning beneath the laughs are an important part of the production. As the cast sorts through the difficult aspects of the play, they discover different levels of both humour and desperation in the perplexing plot.

"My favourite part of the play is the tragedy — the twisted, sinister side of it — because that's what makes it special," says actor Julia Guy. "In this play there are seven truly challenged people who catch the audience's eye and keep surprising them in strange and unexpected ways."

With its bizarre characters and unconventional storyline, the cast of *Fuddy Meers* says the production has no choice but to be larger than life. Since it's one of the last the actors will take on as part of the Bachelor of Fine Arts program, stakes are high, demands are steep and the entire ensemble pours an immense amount of work into the performance.

"The amount of physicality needed in this play is something I've never done — it's a farce full of absurd energy," Stuart Fink, the actor behind the puppeteer character,

explains. "It's an opportunity to let loose with all the training we've had and really see where our limits are, and how extreme we can take things while still keeping it honest — that's the most important thing."

The play continues to be puzzling right down to its title: *Fuddy Meers* is Guy's character's attempt at pronouncing the phrase "funny mirrors," a major theme present in the play. The term relates to a pivotal moment in the life of Claire and the fate of the story as a metaphor for the character's inability to understand what is real, showing how bizarre and distorted memories can be.

In order to take on such an eccentric piece, the cast also made openness and flexibility a priority in rehearsals, something that translates to the stage. Their preparation time, they say, was like a blooper reel of never-ending hilarious moments. And while keeping focused is still key to the success of the show, their own laughter is a crucial part of the work — a sign that they're achieving their comedic goals.

The nature of the play is undeniably zany, but the group stays true to the idea that comedy can only be communicated through authenticity.

"You have to earn the laughs," Gratton says. "If it's wacky but not truthful, then people won't care."

fashion streeters

Juliana Damier

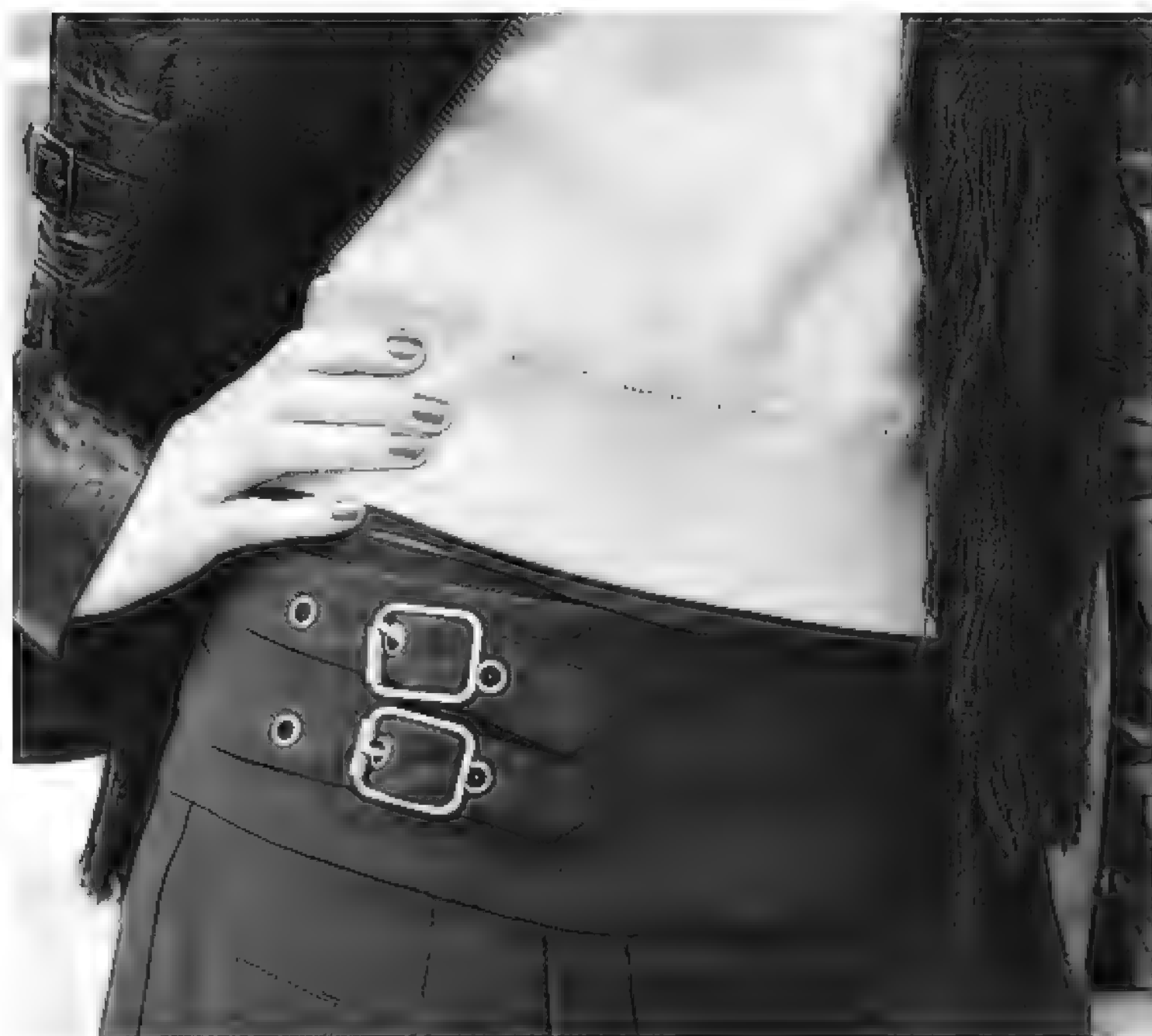


GATEWAY: Describe what you're wearing.

YANA: The skirt is from Edmonton — I bought it in City Centre. This jacket is from Ukraine and it's made of real fur. The boots are Doc Martens and the hat is Juicy Couture. My mother bought it for me in Montreal.

GATEWAY: What's your favourite thing you have on?

YANA: My boots. I love combat boots with a massive platform, and I prefer wearing black because that's what I'm comfortable in.



Check out thegatewayonline.ca/fashionstreeters for more photos.

Queer community opens the future with stories of the past

Anthology celebrates 20 years of LGBTQ voices from the *Loud & Queer Cabaret*

BOOK REVIEW

Queering the Way: The Loud & Queer Anthology

EDITED BY Darrin Hagen
PUBLISHED BY Brindle & Glass Publishing Ltd.

Hilary Dyck
ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

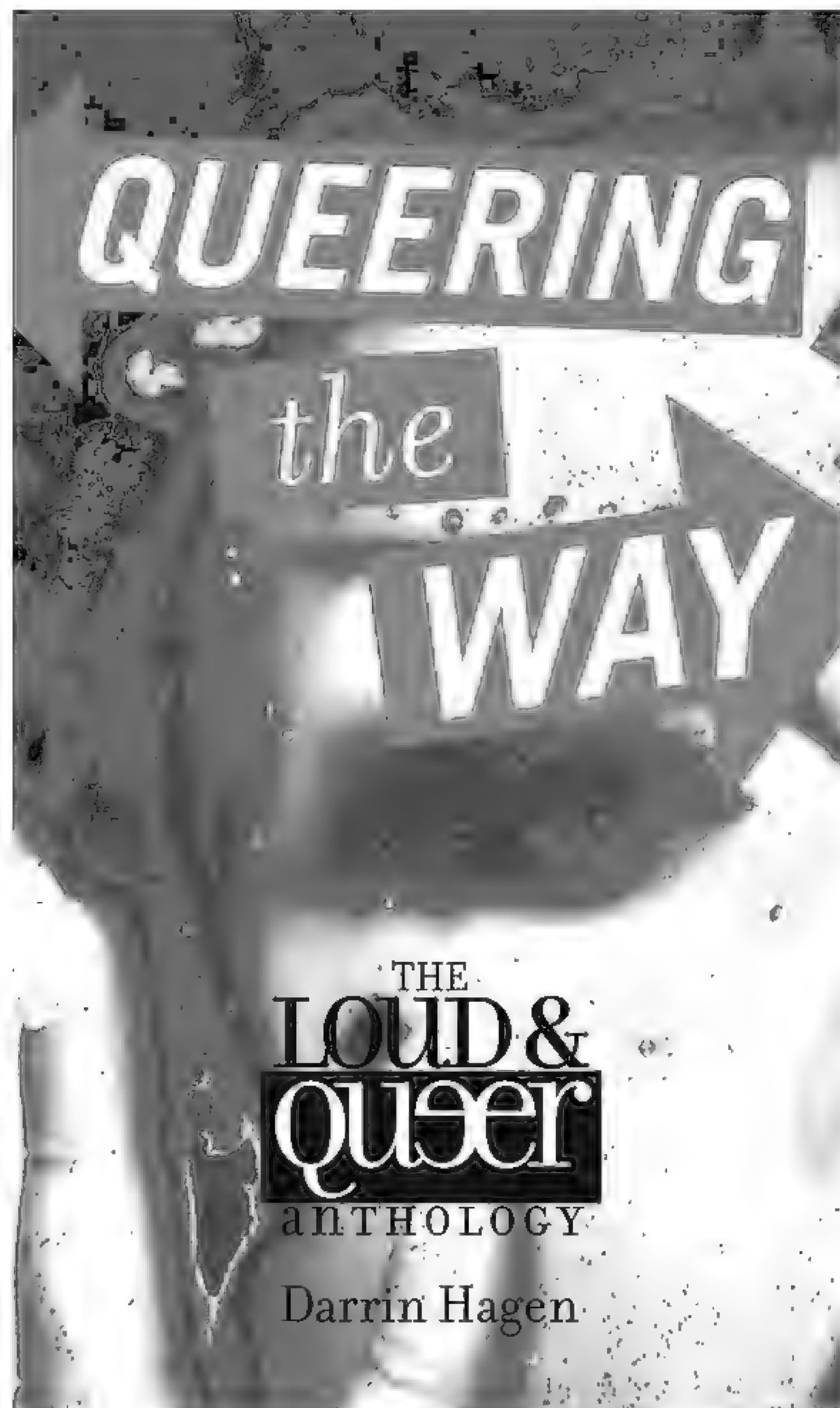
Teetering on stilettos, a drag queen saunters between oversized trucks and SUVs clogging the avenues of Whyte and Jasper. Her tight clothing and heavy makeup is contrasted against a mass of orange and blue hockey fans whose faces are caked with more powder than hers.

Hardened stereotypes set against overlooked sexual minorities clamouring to be heard is an age-old struggle, but the voice of the LGBTQ community in Alberta has long been present through the tradition of the *Loud & Queer Cabaret*, with the development of queer culture manifesting itself through various modes of art. After 20 years of L&Q success, the release of the accompanying anthology, *Queering the Way* is not only an affirmation of queer culture, but also an affirmation of life.

The anthology of writing — everything from cabarets to one-acts plays to beat poems — is categorized into three distinct sections: “Queering the Way Into Forbidden Landscapes,” “Queering the Way by Voicing Otherness” and “Queering the Way by Creating New Artistic Landscapes.” Editor Darrin Hagen makes an effective decision dividing the anthology up, as different emotions are spread evenly throughout, all the while representing a collective movement towards change in new climates.

Twenty-two different artists contribute to the anthology, all with different perspectives. The LGBTQ community has, in the last 20 years, not only firmly planted itself in Alberta's culture, but also become a centre for the creation and celebration of queer art.

Humour punctuates the anthology despite the heavy subject matter of some works. Playwright Rosemary Rowe's in-depth analysis of Anne of Green Gable's sexuality (“The romantic, or ‘bosom’ friends, Anne Shirley



and Diana Barry were, in fact, totally doing it”), opens the book, deeming *Anne of Green Gables* to be the only novel of the period to be “subversive and rich in codified lesbian information.” Rowe creates an entertaining argument with interesting results.

On its richest level, this book is a testament to both the pain and joy that affects people's lives. Diving into difficult subjects that society would rather skirt around, the anthology also expresses an exposed sense of fear.

Laurie MacFayden authors a beat poem entitled “for Theodore,” a frank reaction to a preacher's eulogy that inaccurately depicted her friend. A powerful piece, it states, “we are all teetering on the edge of brokenness; we all have our trips in and out of

the darkness.” The statement of the power of fear resonates throughout the piece. Whether by “a face in profile, a leer, a switchblade, a baseball bat,” or by the “dancing denizens” of a nightclub “never once acknowledging (one's) presence,” the poem demonstrates a community facing fear with the utmost courage.

To take in a collective work, especially one so diverse as the *Loud & Queer Anthology*, is not an easy task. There are so many different points of life addressed in such a small, innocent-looking volume that it can be overwhelming. Yet because of this, it bursts with life. *Queering the Way* is a resounding work, with the utterly unmistakable qualities of authenticity and pride.

ALBUM REVIEW



Marine Dreams Marine Dreams

You've Changed Records

Peggy Jankovic

ARTS & CULTURE WRITER • @PEGGHETTI

Honesty is the best policy — or at least a pretty effective one — when it comes to making great music. In his self-titled solo debut, Ian Kehoe, the man behind Marine Dreams, sings and writes with a zealous sincerity. Defined by layers of catchy riffs embedded in fuzzy guitar rhythms, *Marine Dreams* maintains a bright energy with elements drawn from pop and classic rock and roll.

Kehoe's vocals, sometimes strained and almost out of tune, still have

appeal in their enthusiasm. He's no smooth crooner, but sings with an earnestness that establishes a personal connection to the listener. Occasional harmonies are implemented just enough to highlight his careful words, as opposed to becoming overused.

At the album's most dynamic points, Kehoe's songwriting shines as he sings over a hilly soundscape of swelling guitars and a steady bassline. In particular, “We'll Get Her Back in

Your Arms” showcases a shoegaze-influenced wall of guitars underneath Kehoe's sweet words.

But *Marine Dreams* has a particular core aesthetic it rarely strays from, making much of the album repetitive. “A constant wave of sound,” the repeated refrain on “New Decade,” then also doubles as an accurate descriptor for the album and its sea of layered guitar and percussion. Though the grungy guitar, steady drums and poppy vocals are certainly good mediums for Kehoe's narrative songwriting, a predictable song structure just doesn't grab your attention. It's a shame, as each track is certainly a strong composition on its own, but loses merit in the album's wider context.

Despite the repetition, *Marine Dreams* still makes for an enjoyable listen. This fun collection of songs maintains a personable feel, ultimately making for a solid first effort.



AMIRALI SHARIFI

Sorcery, satire and Shakespeare

The bard meets Terry Pratchett in the fantasy world of *The Wyrds Sisters*

THEATRE PREVIEW

The Wyrds Sisters

WHEN Runs Wednesday, Nov. 30 to Saturday, Dec. 10 at 8 p.m., matinée show Sunday, Dec. 4 at 2 p.m., no show on Monday

WHERE Walderdale Playhouse (10322 83 Ave.)

WRITTEN BY Terry Pratchett, adapted by Stephen Briggs

DIRECTED BY J. Nelson Niwa

STARRING Prudence Olenik, Francie Goodwin-Davies and Mandy Stewart

HOW MUCH \$12 at tixonthesquare.ca

Paige Gorsak

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF • @PAIGEGORSK

WYRDS SISTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The satire of *The Wyrds Sisters* also lifts its plot lines and characters from other famous literature. The title of the book itself comes from the three witches in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, and the plot owes many of its ideas to other works from the famous bard.

"It's very comparable to *Hamlet*, where you have an ambitious family member who attains the throne

through homicidal means. He's spurred by his wife's ambition, which is another nod to (*Macbeth*)," Niwa says. "They take over the kingdom and the rightful heir is displaced. But rather than having the three witches sort of foreshadowing things that happen to the character, the three witches become actively involved."

"The audience will see human behaviour lampooned as only a good satirist can. The comeuppance of the evil and the triumph of the downtrodden: all the wonderful things that you hope for in a good story."

J. NELSON NIWA
DIRECTOR, *THE WYRDS SISTERS*

The murderous conspirators in *The Wyrds Sisters* are the Duke and Duchess of the fantasy land of Lancre, who kill the king in an attempt to dominate the empire. Meanwhile, the king's young son is carried off and

raised by a travelling acting troupe. With the addition of three meddling witches and a fool, Niwa says the show "takes the whole usurper, 'rightful heir to the throne' thing and just turns it right on its head."

As a longtime fan of Pratchett, Niwa says he'd always wanted to bring *The Wyrds Sisters* to life, but admits it can be a struggle to adapt a popular series without disappointing fans.

"This is something that, as much as you want to put your own spin on it, there are things that exist that you do have to subscribe to, or else you risk infuriating the Terry Pratchett geek fandom — which is a heavy force to be reckoned with."

Taking the works of Shakespeare and setting them in the *Discworld* universe where a round, flat world balances on the back of four elephants, in turn resting on the back of a turtle, Niwa promises laughs and surprises to please both old fans and newcomers to the series.

"The audience will see human behaviour lampooned as only a good satirist can," he says. "The comeuppance of the evil and the triumph of the downtrodden: all the wonderful things that you hope for in a good story."

pleasantly surprised: their tame, pop-pinged version of heavy metal feel might be considered a gateway drug to more extreme music, and Amy Lee's voice provides a welcome feminine touch to a genre mostly occupied by white male headbangers.

But given their success and new musical blood, it would be nice to feel a little less bored. Evanescence has simply become a "brand" band, creating music that doesn't explore creativity or sonic possibilities, but instead follows a strict formula. Their latest album is an obvious testament to the fact that once you find success, don't bother changing — bands apparently don't need to innovate in order to be adored.

ALBUM REVIEW



Evanescence *Evanescence*

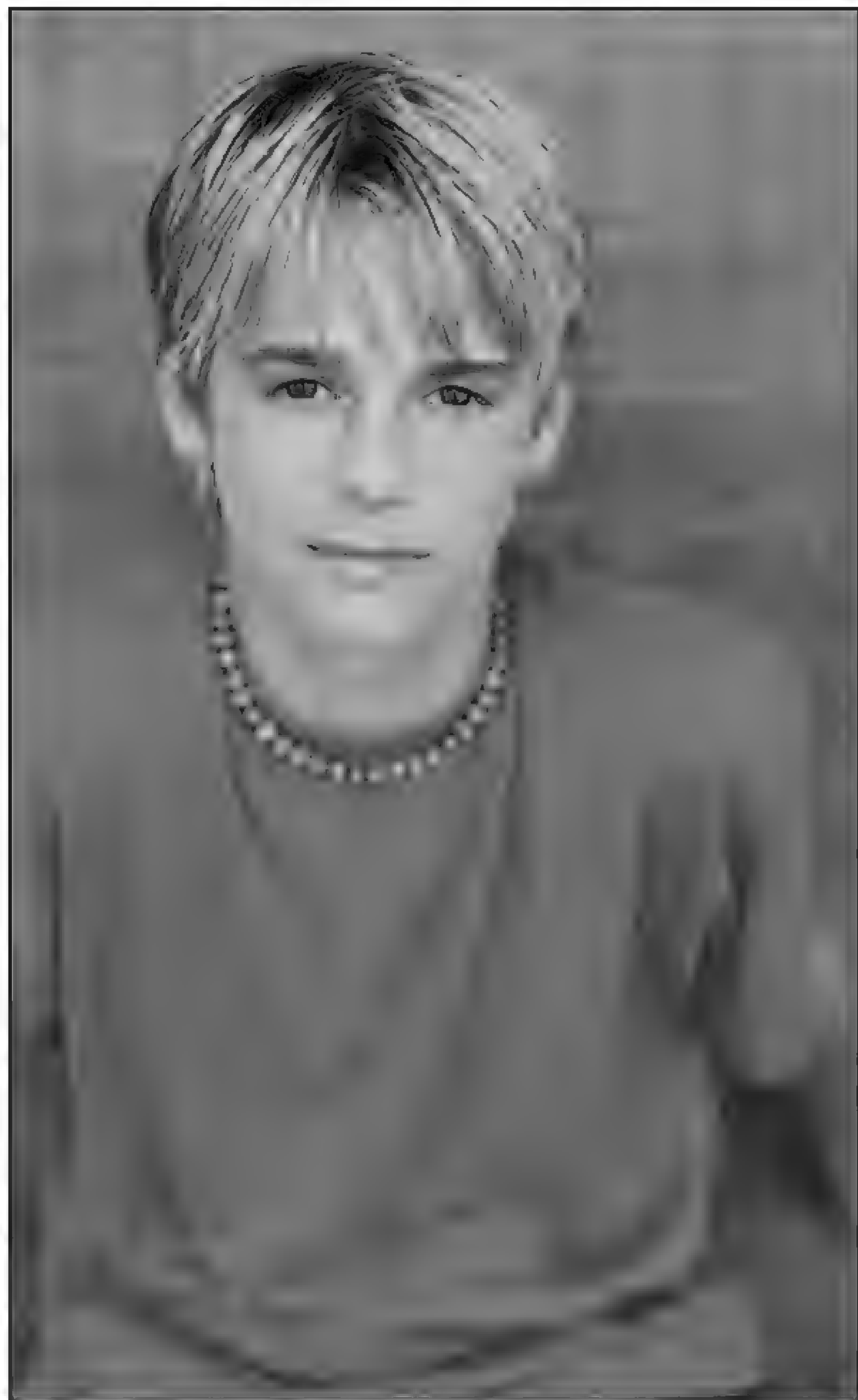
Wind-up
evanescence.com

Cody Gretzinger
ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

After a five-year hiatus, Evanescence finally has a new album. Lead singer Amy Lee's return to the music world has prompted her to revive the band with an entirely new lineup of musicians. But somehow, the group retains the same familiar sound we all remember from their debut *Fallen*.

Their new effort is, as usual, a pop-influenced mixture of nu-metal and Goth rock, with thrashing drums and distorted guitars accompanying Lee's crystal clear voice, to a haunting yet dramatic effect.

If you've never heard an Evanescence album before you may be



"The doorbell rings 'cause the party's here

I'm crankin' up the stereo like it's New Year's

Walkin' round the house like, 'who's da man?'

Nobody can do it like Aaron can."

-AARON CARTER, "AARON'S PARTY (COME GET IT)" (2000)

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FUDDY MEERS
BY DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE

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Muppets return to the cinema with familiar puppet pizzazz

FILM REVIEW

The Muppets

WRITTEN BY Jason Segel and Nicholas Stoller

DIRECTED BY James Bobin

STARRING Jason Segel, Amy Adams, Chris Cooper and Rashida Jones

WHEN Now playing

Matthew Parsons
ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

There's always been something subversive about the Muppets. Sure, they're a family-friendly franchise, but somewhere just below that clean-scrubbed surface bubbles a total rejection of the philosophy of good, old-fashioned fun. Beyond the colourful puppets, jaunty musical numbers and occasional barefaced sentimentality lies a dark sense of humour, pulling laughs out of the repeated injury of Gonzo the Great, the constant victimization of Beaker and the Swedish Chef's unscrupulous animal abuse.

The strength of the new Muppet film, helmed by co-writer and actor Jason Segel, lies in its faithfulness to

the original campy yet clever Muppet spirit. Segel, a longtime Muppets devotee, proves that he's up to the task of rehabilitating everyone's love for the puppet characters.

Segel plays Gary — one of two protagonists — the older brother to the movie's main character, Walter. Walter leads a somewhat troubled life due to his three-foot stature — and because, inexplicably, he's a puppet. He takes his only solace from his hopeless obsession with *The Muppet Show*. Gary and his girlfriend Mary (Amy Adams) invite Walter on a trip with them to Los Angeles, where he overhears an evil industrialist (Chris Cooper) discussing his plan to raze the now abandoned Muppet Studios to drill for oil. In shock and terror, Walter leads Gary and Mary on a mad search for the only one who can stop the plot: Kermit the Frog. When they find him, the wise frog decides at long last that it's time for the Muppets to come back together, in an effort to raise money to save their studios.

While the plot may seem predictable, the fun of the Muppets has always owed more to the idiosyncratic characters and their astonishing expressiveness. But longtime Muppet

devotees might find a major grievance: the missing presence of Muppeteer Frank Oz. While replacement Eric Jacobson performs a pitch-perfect Miss Piggy, his Fozzie Bear leaves something to be desired. Apparently, Oz's objections to some of the crude humour in the movie led him to turn away from the role, but the jokes spring from a classic source of Muppet laughs, expressing the less mature side of their legacy perfectly.

This is the ultimate triumph of *The Muppets*: the film allows the characters to be both lovable and seedy, endearing and irreverent. It neither strips them of their sentimental value, nor relies on it. The new blood brought to the franchise in writers Segel and Nicholas Stoller infuses the Muppets with an energy they haven't possessed for years.

The movie may even be the best theatrical Muppet effort since Jim Henson's death. It's certainly the most mature, staying aware of the advancing age of the series' original fans, who now notice the more adult elements of the comedy. The Muppets are now poised for a resurrection as cultural icons — the subversion continues.

ALBUM REVIEW

Honheehonhee Shouts

Independent
honheehonhee.com

Kate Black
ARTS & CULTURE WRITER



It would be easy to group Honheehonhee's *Shouts* with the drearier folk tunes that sneak their way onto your iPod around this time of year. But don't let their Urban Outfitter's-eque album cover and obscure name fool you — these guys stand out from the usual acoustic gloom found in the early weeks of winter with a basement party vibe and upbeat charm.

The Montreal indie-pop band —

who supposedly named themselves after the noise French squirrels make — have earned fame in their native province for their energetic live shows. They weave their live energy into this brief eight-track album, a diverse presentation of the band's abilities as both musicians and performers.

Maybe on purpose, *Shouts* embodies the coked-up yet infectious energy of a small woodland

creature. They maintain a musical sugar-high throughout, scurrying from hints of shimmering glockenspiel in "We Only Go" to shrill synths in "A. Is for Animal." Although some tracks occasionally lean on the side of overdone harmonies and lengthy instrumentals, such as "Intro: My Lips, Your Voice," the band mostly keeps the excitement down to a manageable level. But it's probably a wise idea not to go looking for any deep meaning here: this album is best enjoyed without digging through the instrumental layers to analyze the minimal lyrical depth.

Weird name aside, Honheehonhee has a refreshing sound that melts the ice from the mid-winter music scene. It's like a cup of hot chocolate minus the calories: just sit back, relax and savour the sweetness.



A Fubar twist on the wild west

FILM PREVIEW

A Legend of Whitey

WHEN Runs Friday, Dec. 2
Thursday, Dec. 8 at various times

WHERE Garneau Theatre
(8712 109 St.)

WRITTEN BY Dave Lawrence and
Paul Spence

DIRECTED BY Dave Lawrence

STARRING Dave Lawrence, Paul
Spence, Dennis Cahill and
Gordon Skilling

Garrett Rosser

ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

Calgary natives Dave Lawrence and Paul Spence may be better known for their roles as drunken delinquents Terry and Dean from *Fubar*. But their new film, *A Legend of Whitey*, channels their joint comedic prowess into the western genre. Set amidst the scenic prairie near Longview, Alta., Lawrence's directorial debut stays close to home, with a few surprises thrown in for good measure.

Filmed over the course of just 20 days, the movie follows the journey of Luther Giddings (Paul Spence) and his half brother William (Dave Lawrence) as they flee across the vast western landscape from the extremely homophobic bison rancher Clarence Cale (Dennis Cahill) after an alleged intimate encounter with

Cale's effeminate son. While the plot is just as absurd as its *Fubar* predecessors, *A Legend of Whitey* also has its own refined style: the long shots of Alberta's monumental prairies are a far cry from the handcam styling of the *Fubar* movies.

“A lot of the humour came out of the reaction to movies like *Brokeback Mountain*. A lot of guys wouldn't watch it — they thought just watching it would turn them gay.”

DAVID LAWRENCE
DIRECTOR, *A LEGEND OF WHITEY*

“We filmed the movie on just a one-kilometre stretch of land,” Lawrence recalls, noting the tendency for western films to feature epic landscapes. “We tried to have that feel a little. I was really excited to film in Alberta, where a lot of my favourite western movies had been shot.”

The prairie landscape might seem familiar to fans of the western genre: *A Legend of Whitey* was shot close to the same fields as the iconic films *Days of Heaven* and *Unforgiven*. While the backdrop grounds the film in the normally serious genre, the scenery also provides a perfect pastoral setting for the artfully crude comedy of the Giddings brothers' desperate journey,

setting issues of homophobia and racism against the traditional western surroundings.

Making laughs out of sensitive issues without being offensive or preachy, Lawrence and fellow *Fubar* castmate Spence give the film a sense of comedy akin to their previous work, but with new characters and a thoughtful plotline. There are still a few classic potty humour jokes, but the movie represents a shift from lewd improvisation to a refined comedic style that also incorporates Lakota, Blackfoot and Hiabwe mythology. The film touches on themes of a confused Canadian identity while also pushing negative homophobic and racist stereotypes to the point of comedic absurdity.

“A lot of the humour came out of the reaction to movies like *Brokeback Mountain*. A lot of guys wouldn't watch it — they thought just watching it would turn them gay,” Lawrence says. “We wanted to make fun of that and show how ridiculous that kind of attitude was.”

Lawrence's latest effort culminates in a unique comedic western with an effortless onscreen bond between two familiar actors backed by a hilarious supporting cast. The impressive cinematography, along with a soundtrack from the unlikely collaboration between country and rock musicians, provides the perfect backing to Lawrence and Spence's script and acting.

Lawrence's directorial debut reveals the duo from *Fubar* are capable of producing truly powerful comedy in Canada's own backyard.

ALBUM REVIEW



Ryan Adams *Ashes and Fire*

Capitol Records
paxamrecords.com

Ramneek Tung
ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

After a three-year hiatus, Ryan Adams makes a triumphant return to his alternative country roots with his 13th album *Ashes and Fire*. Perhaps it was his marriage to Mandy Moore or the lukewarm response to his foray into science fiction and heavy metal with the vinyl exclusive *Orion*, but Adams finally makes the choice to return to his musical niche

— and he's reinvigorated.

Utilizing the sparse production of Glyn Johns, the man behind The Who's seminal *Who's Next*, Adams' voice shines as he carves out the antithesis of his debut *Heartbreaker*. While that angst-ridden release was written amidst a breakup, *Ashes and Fire* is the work of an older and wiser man full of optimism. Despite a few

depressing numbers and a slight misstep with the Dylanesque title track, the album plays out like a love letter to his wife in a series of beautifully written songs.

Adams' simple yet poignant compositions never touch upon the issue that resulted in his hiatus — but maybe he's decided to move on from his obsession with futility and self-destruction, themes that saturate his prior releases. Instead, he focuses on the positives in his life: his marriage, a successful career and exceptional songwriting talent. *Ashes and Fire* is one of the finest records of the year, and if it's Adams' swan song, there's no better way to bow out, proving once and for all that he isn't just a one-album wonder.

The School of Energy and the Environment (SEE) invites you to attend the next presentation in our “SEE the research at work” seminar series 2011-12:

Applying silvicultural knowledge to the challenges of renewing forests following energy exploration/extraction

Victor Lieffers, Department Chair, Department of Renewable Resources, Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences

Increasingly, energy exploration in Alberta is done in forested landscapes at sites usually dominated by woody vegetation and large trees. The ecosystems that have assembled in forests are adapted to shaded environments. Reclamation work needs to focus on regenerating and rebuilding forest communities. Renewal of forests should link to the extensive knowledge gained from management of forest renewal and forest dynamics associated with silvicultural processes built up over a century or more of management of forests. In this seminar Dr. Lieffers will discuss the various aspects of silvicultural knowledge that might be applied to land reclamation in forested environments.

All are welcome. RSVP not required.

Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2011 | Time: 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm
More information and optional RSVP available @ www.see.ualberta.ca
Location: Stollery Executive Development Centre, Room 5-40, Alberta School of Business, U of A
Questions? School of Energy and the Environment (SEE), uasee@ualberta.ca

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bears basketball

Nov. 25, 2011



87



77

	AB	TWU
FG 1st Half	18-32	12-27
3FG 1st Half	5-11	1-5
FT 1st Half	1-5	4-8
FG 2nd Half	11-27	17-36
3FG 2nd Half	3-9	2-8
FT 2nd Half	20-29	12-17
Total Rebounds	31	35

Nov. 26, 2011



79



57

	AB	UFV
FG 1st Half	14-33	6-27
3FG 1st Half	4-13	2-10
FT 1st Half	3-4	6-9
FG 2nd Half	14-35	12-24
3FG 2nd Half	3-10	2-6
FT 2nd Half	13-16	11-15
Total Rebounds	27	42

CANADA WEST
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
TOP THREE

7-0

6-2
LOSSES TO TWU
AND UFV

6-2
BOTH LOSSES TO
REGINA



MATT HIR, I

Pandas take home two more wins as hockey season nears winter break

Pandas win four straight, including a Saturday night shootout, and hope to add to that streak before term end

HOCKEY PREVIEW

Pandas vs. Bisons

Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2-3
Clare Drake Arena, 7 p.m.

Rebecca Medel
SPORTS EDITOR

The puck Pandas battled hard to take two wins over the weekend against the University of Regina Cougars, putting them at 6-1-5 in Canada West, just behind their provincial rivals the Calgary Dinos.

“It was like a war out there. We were getting pulled down. We were getting hooked. It was awesome just to see us keep going,” said fourth-year forward Sarah Hilworth.

Hilworth scored Saturday’s winning shootout goal for the 4-3 win along with another goal and assist in that game and a point in Friday’s 3-1 game. Katie Borbely also had goals in both games, while Jessica Abt had one on Friday and Karla Bourke netted one on Saturday.

With these wins, the Pandas have turned an earlier six-game losing streak around. Assistant coach Brett Anderson said once the team starts seeing the pucks flying into the net, their confidence builds. Saturday’s game intensified as the Pandas scored two of their goals near the end of the second period and their third just after five minutes into the third period.

“I feel like in a game like this, where in the

last two periods we’ve kind of turned that corner we feel like, ‘Hey, we’ve got it now,’ ” Anderson said.

Holding onto a top-10 CIS spot at number eight has been a team effort as not only seasoned players but rookies are seeing ice time.

“The rookies have played every game so far and they’re getting a lot of the bigger minutes because they’re flying out there. They’re moving their feet and they’re working hard,” Anderson said.

■ **“(Manitoba) is our biggest rival so it’s going to be an even bigger battle out there. We’ve had the most history with them ever and every game against them is just for pride first and then getting those two points.”**

SARAH HILWORTH
FORWARD, PANDAS HOCKEY

The father of rookie forward Janelle Froehler, Tim, has been a hockey dad for more than 20 years and said he’s seen big improvements in his daughter’s game in the past few months.

“As a rookie I think it’s a positive aspect where (coach Howie Draper) is giving these players a chance to shine. And I think it’s huge,” Froehler said. “It’s all about coaching. You have to show these girls that they can and

that they will win simply because they have the challenge. And if you have a coach that believes in them, it’s going to happen.”

This weekend the Pandas are hoping for more wins as they host the 6-4-2 University of Manitoba Bisons. Hilworth said the team is looking forward to the games so that they can put some more points on the board before the Christmas break.

“Anytime we can get wins in this league is incredible because our league is so tight now. Every point actually counts,” Hilworth said. “(Manitoba is) our biggest rival so it’s going to be an even bigger battle out there. We’ve had the most history with them ever and every game against them is just for pride first and then getting those two points.”

The Bisons were the 2010-11 Canada West winners and in 2008-09 they broke a seven-year CanWest winning streak for the Pandas that had included five CIS championships. The Pandas struck back in the 2009-10 season with both conference and national championship wins.

Anderson said the Pandas are going to be working hard all week to get focused for the weekend’s games.

“It’s going to be a tough one. (Manitoba’s) started off a little bit slower but they’re always strong. So we’re just going to make sure we’re mentally tough and ready to go.”

The Pandas play Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. at Clare Drake Arena.

The team picks up again in the new year when the Pandas host the Calgary Dinos on Jan. 6 before heading there Jan. 7.



SAMAN VAISIPOLR

Bears volleyball drops one spot after first loss of the season to Bisons

VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW

Bears vs. T-Birds

Friday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 3, 6 p.m.

SCSC

Rebecca Medel

SPORTS EDITOR

The Golden Bears volleyball squad suffered their first loss, 3-1, in Manitoba last Friday after a seven-game winning streak. But the Bears didn't leave the U of M completely defeated, serving the Bisons their own loss when they beat them 3-2 on Saturday.

The Bears fall from their second place CIS ranking to third but have another chance to boost their standing before the term ends when they host the UBC Thunderbirds this weekend. The T-Birds are another top-10 CIS team, sitting at number five.

"Both of those teams are good teams with strong histories. I always say none of the games will be easy for us," head coach Terry Danyluk said, referring to the T-Birds and Bisons. "I think the ability levels of the top five teams in Canada should be a little bit better. But there's not a big difference between six, seven,

eight and nine when you look at the big picture and I think momentum in our game is important — carrying momentum through matches from weekend to weekend."

That momentum fired up the Bears to win three of five sets against the Bisons last Saturday and saw fourth-year left side hitter Taylor Hunt lead the scoring with 22 kills.

Danyluk said this year's Bears are a very different team than he's ever had, as they're the youngest he's coached with eight brand-new players.

"I recruited guys that I thought had potential to play right away and that doesn't always work out based on the team makeup," Danyluk said. "It's been different every weekend and I think that's part of a new team. We're still trying to figure out how to get all that stuff together and to perform consistently."

Consistency from the first to the last set is something that Danyluk focuses on at practices as he says it's the one thing in the game of volleyball that can be controlled.

"In volleyball there's no real moment of control other than serving — everything else is rebound skills. So you're relying on the quality of the rebound and how the other team responds to those rebounds.

It's really a unique game that way."

Danyluk said some of the slow starts the Bears have had since play started in October have been a result of players taking their focus off of what they can bring to the game.

"It's out of our control how hard the other team is going to work, what the atmosphere in the building's going to be like, are the referees going to be good or going to be bad? And I think a lot of times athletes get caught up in all those other things," Danyluk said. "I think probably the biggest thing for me is trying to stay consistent instead of starting gangbusters or starting too slow — kind of start at a pace that's a good pace. I always talk about playing in our rhythm and trying to control the atmosphere in our 900 square feet."

This weekend's games against UBC are going to be exciting and one last chance to soak up some of the energy of their home crowd before Christmas.

"UBC has traditionally been a good draw. The coach there is a former player of mine, so that team is a good team. All the teams that are going to be playing in our gym this year are feisty."

Games are Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Saville Community Sports Centre.

sports shorts

COMPILED BY **Rebecca Medel**

FIRST LOSSES FOR HOOP PANDAS

The Pandas basketball squad suffered two home losses by one point each last weekend when they hosted the Trinity Western University Spartans and the University of Fraser Valley Cascades.

Friday night's 66-65 loss to the Spartans was still a feat for fourth-year guard Nicole Clarke as she notched 28 points — her most in one game.

Saturday's 68-67 loss to the Cascades was the Pandas' second loss of the season putting them at 6-2 and bumping their national ranking from fifth place to seventh.

The Pandas take a break from conference play until they head to UBC Jan. 6 and Victoria Jan. 7 to take on the T-Birds and the Vikes.

BEARS BASKETBALL ADD MORE WINS

The Bears basketball team was undefeated last weekend as they took on the Trinity Western Spartans and the Fraser Valley Cascades.

A Friday night win of 87-77 against the Spartans and 79-57 defeat of the Cascades the next day has the Bears at 6-2 and number six nationally.

The team next plays Jan. 6 when they head to UBC and Victoria on Jan. 7.

CZECHS CANCEL HOCKEY WITH BEARS

The Bears will not get to play the Czech Republic junior team on Dec. 18, as the Czechs decided the distance from where they're staying in Lethbridge is too far to travel.

"It's unfortunate that the Czechs decided to pull out," said Bears head coach Stan Marple. "I think it was more a geography thing than anything else."

The Bears still play the Denmark junior team Dec. 15 and 16.



TODD PRUNER



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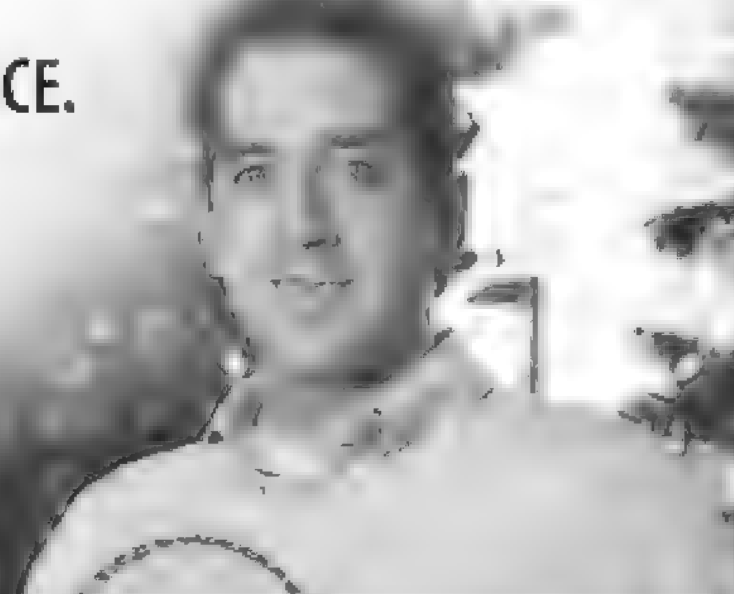
Elijah Ahlquist, MPA

Recipient of the CAPPA-IPAC National Student Thought Leadership Award (bronze), Ahlquist's project focused on the economic impact and potential health risks associated with a lack of nutritional information on pre-packaged foods. He believes that although the Canadian government has intervened by regulating nutrition labels on all pre-packaged foods, consumers vary in their ability to interpret and effectively use this new information. Elijah suggests that additional improvements, such as increased information, graphic codes and third-party endorsements, are needed in order to further remedy this failure.

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HOCKEY PREVIEW

Bears vs. Bisons

Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2-3
University of Manitoba

Atta Almasi

SPORTS STAFF

After sealing two victories against the Regina Cougars in Saskatchewan last weekend with a double overtime 4-3 win on Saturday, the Golden Bears hockey team solidified a perfect 6-0 record for the month of November and the top spot in the Canada West standings.

Bears head coach Stan Marple said he has a lot to be proud of.

"(I'm) very happy with the way the team's coming together. I think our team defence has been pretty tight and are disciplined. We haven't taken a lot of undisciplined penalties, which helps. And our goaltending's been absolutely wonderful. So you combine those things and we've had success in November. The credit all goes to the players for executing our system play and outworking their opponents."

Marple said a few leaders on the ice contributed a lot to the winning streak, including starting goalie Real Cyr, who's the number one keeper in Canada West with 199 saves. Sean Ringrose and Jordan Hickmott are two of the top scorers in CanWest with 16 points each.

"Both our goaltenders are playing well, but Real Cyr's play has probably been more exceptional to date and hopefully he can keep that form throughout the season. Also, Sean Ringrose and his line with Jordan Hickmott and Levko Koper really provided us with some leadership offensively. But our defensive core has been good and all four lines are contributing in their own way and I have a lot of confidence in all four lines to put out in just about any situation."

Last Saturday was the Bears' fifth overtime game of the season which shows the high calibre the Bears are



FILE PHOTO: SEYED HOSSEIN

competing against.

"I think the league's very tight and our guys have done well playing under pressure. We've had a lot of one-goal games and tight games and overtime games and our record could be a lot worse, but I think the boys have a lot of composure out there and play well when the pressure's on which is going to be good for us going down the stretch here and into the playoffs."

The next games for the Bears has them travelling to Winnipeg this weekend to take on the 9-3-2 University of Manitoba Bisons who tied with the Saskatchewan Huskies for second place and are right behind the Bears, at 10-2-2. The last time the two teams met the Bisons got the better of the Bears, taking the first game 5-4 but losing the second game in double OT. Marple said he knows that Friday and Saturday's tilts against Manitoba won't be easy to play.

"Manitoba's a very physical team.

They're very well coached. They like to activate their defence in the offensive zone and create opportunities off the cycle like us. They're one of those teams that we really have to bring our A-game (to beat).

"And they're always very tough in their own barn as we are in ours."

After Manitoba, the Bears will host the Denmark junior national team on Dec. 15-16 in their preparation for the Under 20 IIHF World Championships. This is a team that Marple said the Bears are fortunate to have a chance to play against.

"We're very happy the Danes are coming and they're going to have a bit of a training camp here so you'll see probably a lot of blonde guys hanging around campus for a week starting on (Dec.) 13. And we're happy that they've come. And we're going to be good hosts and hopefully give them some good competition so they can prepare well for these world championships."

NATIONAL FOOTBALL

McMaster wins Vanier Cup with 20-yard FG

Andrew Bates

CUP FEATURES BUREAU CHIEF

VANCOUVER (CUP) — A wild back-and-forth game for the biggest prize in Canadian university football ended with a simple field goal.

A 20-yard attempt in overtime by Tyler Crapigna gave the McMaster Marauders a 41-38 Vanier Cup victory over the Laval Rouge et Or on Friday night.

The victory was McMaster's first Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) football championship, and it didn't come easy. After the Marauders roared to a 23-0 halftime lead, Laval responded with 24 unanswered points to set a back-and-forth ending that had the crowd of over 29,000 at BC Place in pandemonium.

Tied at 31, McMaster had a chance to win it on the final play of the fourth quarter, but Crapigna missed a 30-yard field goal wide left, sending the game to overtime.

But he made no mistake on his second chance to win the game.

"Definitely one of the best kicks of my life," Crapigna said. "I had the same feeling going into both kicks. Obviously the first one didn't go in, but I knew the second one was going to go in."

"I wasn't going to miss two in

a row."

However, it was in the second that McMaster looked its best, with a sequence of 12 consecutive completions from quarterback Kyle Quinlan, who finished with 482 yards passing and was named game MVP.

After halftime, Laval roared back. Minutes into the third quarter, they were able to puncture the McMaster line with a 62-yard punt return by Guillaume Rioux. A minute later, Frédéric Plesius was able to pick off Kyle Quinlan and ran 37 yards to bag the Rouge et Or's second touchdown.

McMaster had trouble with Laval's newfound pressure, managing barely to make it out of their end on the following possession.

In the fourth quarter, Laval clawed into the lead. An eight-play, 107-yard drive culminated in a 34-yard pass by Bruno Prud'Homme finding Sébastien Lévesque, who was able to bring the ball 44 yards and over the line. A successful conversion marked 24 unanswered points for Laval.

But the Marauders were soon dangerous as well. On a seven-play scoring drive that saw a 18-yard run by the rushing Quinlan, Matt Peressini nabbed a nine-yard run and a five-yard convert to re-establish the lead 31-24 with six minutes to go.

That TD set the stage for an astounding finale. Laval didn't stop pushing, and pushed their way down the field before Prud'Homme found Julian Feoli for a five-yard touchdown to establish a 31-31 tie with two minutes and 13 seconds to go.

As overtime loomed — only the second in Vanier Cup history and first since 1994 — McMaster looked dangerous on a drive that started on their own seven-yard line, driving 80 yards in just under three minutes before missing a chance to win the game on Crapigna's missed field goal.

In overtime, McMaster had the ball first and made it count, with a 26-yard pass to Bradley Fochesato. The Rouge et Or responded, however, sinking a 33-yard pass to draw level at 38-38. But Laval lost their chance to follow up, with Stephen Ventresca picking off Prud'Homme on a return play.

With the chance to force McMaster into a long field goal to win the game, Laval were called for their second too-many-men call of the evening, giving the Marauders a first down on their own 20 — too easy of a chance for a team that had been dominant on offence all game long, and now, can call themselves Vanier Cup champions.



FILE PHOTO: PETER HOLMES

Bears and Pandas bag titles at Huskie Invitational tourney

WRESTLING REVIEW

Bears and Pandas

Friday and Saturday, Nov. 25-26
Huskie Invitational, U of S

Ravanne Lawday

SPORTS STAFF @RAVIAZHARKO

It was a title-winning tournament last weekend for the Pandas and Golden Bears wrestling teams as they left Saskatoon and headed back to Edmonton with an armload of medals.

The Pandas finished second in overall standings at the Huskie Invitational on Nov. 25-26, and the Bears finished third. This means the women keep their number-one CIS ranking and the men bump up a spot from fourth into third place. The Pandas won a silver medal and four bronze, while the Bears won

a gold medal, five silver and one bronze.

Owen Dawkins, head coach for both the men and women, said it was an ideal end to the fall wrestling season.

"The Huskie Invitational was just a great, great end to the year as a team. It was a good setting point to see where we're at and do a little bit of team building. With our girls winning the Saskatoon varsity event and the guys winning both club and varsity events — things are looking up."

The teams have already had an exciting season this fall with four previous tournaments under their belt.

"Both the guys and girls teams have been doing very well," Dawkins said. "Our guys have won both of the conference tournaments that they've been in. In the Dino Open at the University of Calgary, the girls placed second and the guys placed first in both the varsity and club events. Also, the girls have

just come back from an invitational tournament in London, Ontario where they placed third."

A lot of effort is put into preparing for these invitational tournaments, but the Bears and Pandas still have their sights set a little bit higher for the action that will take place in the new year.

"We used the Huskie Invitational as just another tournament; we wrestled right through it in the hopes of peaking for the CanWest finals on Feb. 10-11, as well as the CIS championships on Feb. 24-25. The rest of the tournaments are just games that we're going to play right through," Dawkins said. "Everyone's on board for where we're heading. I think that we have some exciting things ahead of us in the second half of the year."

The success they've had at invitationals this fall will be tested just after the winter break when the Bears host their own tournament Jan. 6-7.

Volleyball Pandas prep for number-one T-Birds

VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW

Panda vs. T-Birds

Friday, Dec. 2, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.
SCSC

Atta Almasi

SPORTS STAFF

The undefeated, reigning national volleyball champs are coming to town this weekend and the number-two Pandas are ready for the challenge of playing the UBC Thunderbirds in their first match-up of the season.

The T-Birds are consistently ranked number one in the CIS polls for women's volleyball and have a way of simply dominating their opponents.

"You don't become a number-one ranked team without being solid across the board," said Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler.

Last weekend the Pandas split matches in Winnipeg against the number-five University of Manitoba Bisons and the weekend before that they split matches against the number-four Winnipeg Wesmen. They're now looking to rebound back into double wins as they take on UBC.

"I think it showed some maturity and a real resistance to give in to what appeared to be the inevitable and just stick with it," Eisler said about her team's come-from-behind win against Manitoba last Saturday after trailing two sets to none.

This Friday and Saturday's games against the T-Birds will be the last for the term before the Pandas resume their schedule in January. Eisler said the match against UBC couldn't have come at a better time and that her Pandas will be ready to face their biggest threat of the season.

"Well, if we're not ready now, there is no next weekend. So I think it's the perfect team to match up with at the end of this first term."

As for preparing tactically, mentally and physically for the T-Birds, Eisler said they'll be sticking to their tried and true strategy.

"(It's the) same way we prepare for everybody else. The early part of the week is a lot of hard work. It's studying them, trying to figure out a gameplan that should provide some opportunities to be successful. But we don't really change what we do from week to week — it's pretty much a routine now. And this time of the season a lot of things have been exposed by both teams.

We both played the same amount of matches so there isn't really any secrets."

The T-Birds roster is stacked with players such as Team Canada's fifth-year outside hitter Kyla Richey and fourth-year national beach player, Shanice Marcelle.

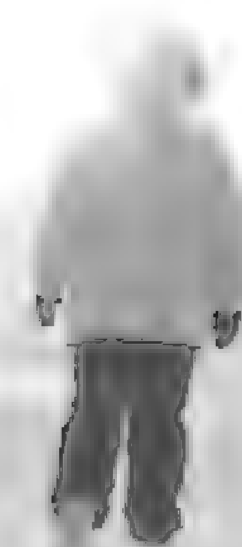
"They've got a lot of depth. Lisa Barclay played with the (Canadian World University Games) team last summer ... A player, I think, that gets overlooked a lot is (fifth-year Rachel) Quiring, who's mostly on the right side. She's experienced and she's just really consistent and she doesn't get rattled," Eisler said. "They have a lot of depth and a lot of weapons. So we've got to be prepared to play some good defence."

Eisler said there's nothing to suggest that her team should be afraid of anybody, even though UBC has won the national women's volleyball championship the past four years.

"I think there's definitely a respect. Intimidation is fear. And that isn't even an option. I don't think we can even think about it ... that's not in our language."

Games are Friday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Saville Community Sports Centre.

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Sixty Years of Music

The Edmonton Symphony Orchestra celebrates a milestone in its history

Words by Madeline Smith — Photos by Selena Phillips-Boyle

When Broddy Olson started playing violin in the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra in 1961, he was just 17 years old. Following in the footsteps of his violinist father, he was helping to teach group lessons in his family's music school when he was given the opportunity to join the orchestra. And while he's spent time away from Edmonton, including brief periods at Julliard and Indiana University, he's always returned to Edmonton, content with his long-term stay with the symphony.

Now half a century later, Olson begins his 51st year with the orchestra as they celebrate their 60th anniversary, having watched the organization grow almost from its very foundations.

The ESO's roots go back as far as the 1920s, when it was a part-time community orchestra. After its first 12 years the organization suspended operations for two decades, finally reestablishing itself as the Edmonton Symphony Society in 1952, with their first concert on Nov. 30 considered the organization's official birth.

"The orchestra was a whole different thing back then," Olson says about the Symphony's days as a community orchestra. "We would do maybe six or eight concerts a year, compared to what we do now — 110 performances. You had six or eight times a year when you got together, and we would start rehearsing at the beginning of the week. The rehearsals would be in the evening from 8 to 11 p.m., and we would have all kinds of people that had other positions that they were working in during the day: engineers, accountants, lawyers, doctors, teachers."

The ESO's first full-time conductor, Brian Priestman, took over in 1964, and later, under the direction of Lawrence Leonard, the Symphony began to change from a part-time community group into a professional orchestra with auditioned positions and a more ambitious rehearsal and performance schedule. By the time Pierre Hétu took to the podium in 1973, the orchestra had completed the transition to a more serious organization, with a higher calibre of performance and organization.

"Unfortunately, all the Edmontonians

playing with us that had other jobs had to make a decision," Olson says of the transition period. "The decision was a no-brainer, because at that time, we got \$1,000 for playing the whole season, and other professions were making significantly more. So they couldn't afford to give up their work and come and play in the Edmonton Symphony no matter how much they loved it."

With first master agreement to start as a real orchestra drawn up in 1971, the ESO's development took off. And while the orchestra's size hasn't changed much over the years, the past 60 seasons have seen the organization undergo significant restructuring. After a musicians' strike in 2002, they gained more input into some of the Symphony's administrative processes, like the selection of a conductor. This spurred the development of a more communicative relationship between the artistic and business sides of the ESO, establishing more input for the musicians on the Symphony's board of directors in the orchestra's governance.

"The orchestra itself is extraordinarily kind, and it has something to do with where we live. Edmonton is just big enough and just small enough to support this organization whole-heartedly. In Edmonton, we've developed with our audience."

Lucas Waldin
ESO Resident Conductor

The move from their previous home at the Jubilee Auditorium into the specialized concert hall at the Winspear Centre was a major milestone for the ESO and so drastically improved the orchestra's ability to take control over their sound that the Winspear is sometimes jokingly referred to as the 57th member of the ESO. But even with their new digs, the symphony continues to fight for attention in a city with countless events every year. And even as the ESO makes changes in order to open itself up to a wider audience, the city has responded in kind.

Lucas Waldin, currently in his third and final season as resident conductor with the ESO, sees an obvious difference between Edmonton and other cities as to the place the orchestra occupies within the city's arts

community. A Toronto native who has spent time in "unfriendly cities," he says the strong community that continues to grow around the symphony here in Edmonton is a refreshing change from strict stereotype that exists around the world of classical music.

"The orchestra itself is extraordinarily kind, and it has something to do with where we live," Waldin says. "Edmonton is just big enough and just small enough to support this organization whole-heartedly. In Edmonton, we've developed with our audience."

Waldin points to the variety of concert series the symphony features as a crucial part of the community support: whether you're a hardcore Pops fan or dedicated to standard symphonic repertoire, the ESO tries to take the needs of their audiences into account. But at the same time, everything is done with an attitude of openness and dedication to patron development, creating a sense of familiarity with the audiences the orchestra has cultivated.

Much of that familiarity and new openness can be traced to a new hire within the last decade. With current music director Bill Eddins taking to the podium in 2005, the ESO finds itself in a new era, bringing down barriers for audiences who are unfamiliar with classical repertoire in different, creative ways. He is an important part of the movement away from the traditional notion of what is and isn't "allowed" in performance, and the unspoken rules and regulations that surround institution of classical music.

Eddins and the artistic development team behind the ESO fight against the idea that the community of classical fans makes up part of an exclusive, unwelcoming club, and are determined to adopt an innovative approach, twisting traditional ideas about the lofty,

inaccessible nature of classical music for an unfamiliar audience.

"Changing the way things operate is a very important and very strong part of this organization," Waldin says. "We talk a lot here, at the Edmonton Symphony, in concert. We explain pieces and make a joke and make the audience feel comfortable and part of what's happening onstage. There are very few orchestras of this calibre that do that, actually."

"It's really a journey that (Eddins) has taken this audience on and developed with them — the at-ease aspect of a concert experience."

As the orchestra begins their 60th year — the "hometown" season — they're also preparing for a trip to Carnegie Hall in New York City as participants in the Spring for Music Festival, with a program that reflects both their own history and Edmonton's array of musical talents. With pieces by former composers-in-residence John Estacio and Alan Gilliland, solos from Edmonton-born musicians Jens Lindemann and Juliette Kang and a brand new composition from current composer-in-residence Robert Rival, the Carnegie program embodies the Symphony's past, present and future, with a nod to both their Canadian roots and their willingness to explore unconventional repertoire.

Music Resource D. T. Baker, who now runs "Symphony 101" workshops to promote classical music education, says experimentation is at the heart of the orchestra's modern mandate, and that's why he's sure the ESO's visit to New York in the spring will have Carnegie Hall filled with Oilers jerseys.

As the nature of the ideal concert experience changes, the ESO continues to honour traditions while exploring new creative directions. The Symphony may be 60 years old, but the connections between all its parts remain as vibrant as ever as the organization looks ahead to an unconventional future.

"One of the things we try to do is take that mystery and intimidation factor away," Baker says. "So (Eddins) wiggles his ass — so what? So you clap at the wrong time — so what? It's not what everybody makes it out to be. Once people get over that hurdle and they realize it's not as intimidating as they thought, that's when they can really have some fun with the music."

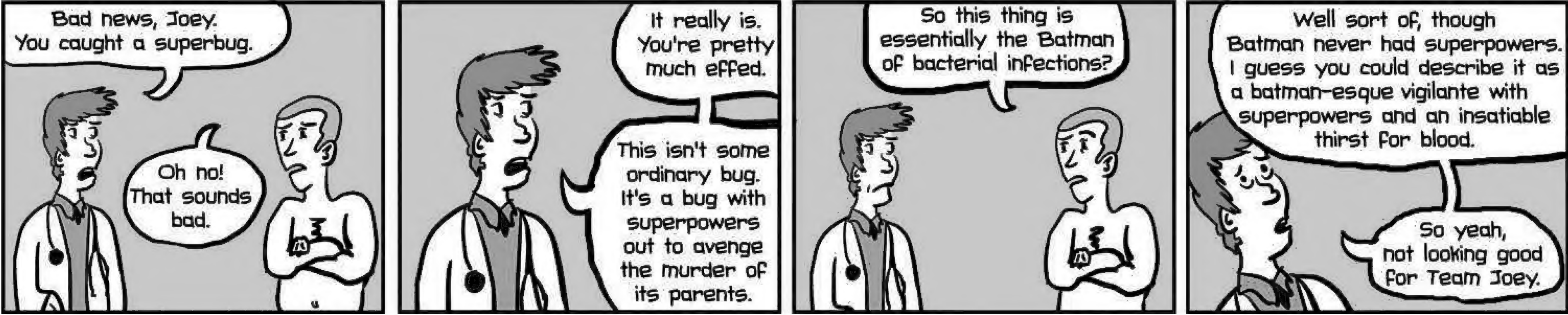


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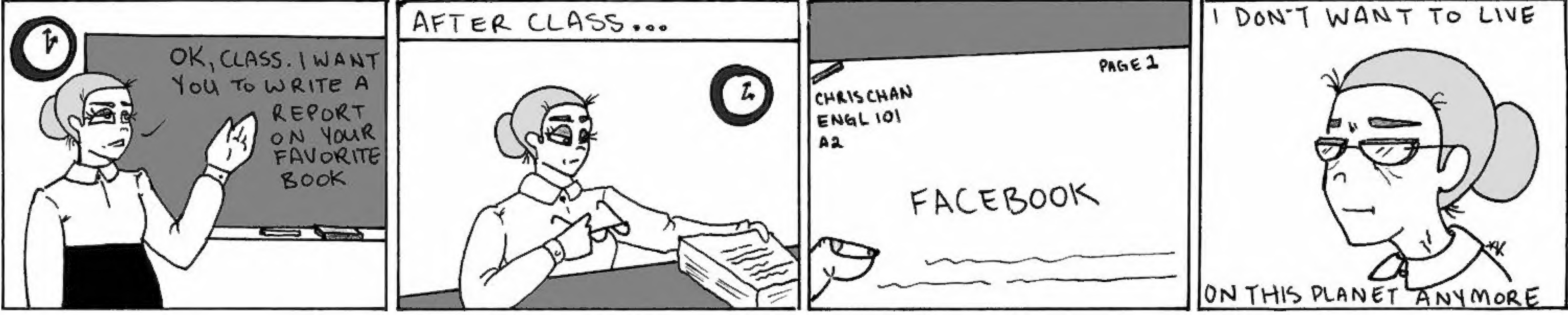
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Across

- 1. ____ lift?
- 6. Seine feeder
- 10. Attempt
- 14. Approvals
- 15. Heath
- 16. River in central Switzerland
- 17. High-speed separator
- 20. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
- 21. The Younger and The Elder
- 22. All there
- 26. Regain strength
- 30. Fate
- 34. Plunder
- 35. Writer Hentoff
- 36. Asian holiday
- 38. Become less intense, die off
- 39. DC bigwig
- 40. Subway turner
- 42. "... ____ the cows come home"
- 43. Cry ____ River
- 44. Taoism founder
- 45. Caution
- 49. Listener
- 50. IRS IDs
- 51. Considers
- 54. Freight weight
- 56. Naive
- 64. Buenos ____
- 65. Area of 4840 square yards

- 66. Musical drama
- 67. Actress McClurg
- 68. Norse god of thunder
- 69. Water vapor

Down

- 1. Big Apple sch.
- 2. Conger
- 3. Cornerstone abbr.
- 4. German article
- 5. Quickly, quickly
- 6. Beaten egg dish
- 7. Charged particle
- 8. Drunkard
- 9. Be human
- 10. Adventurous expedition
- 11. Lacking slack
- 12. Jason's craft
- 13. Apians
- 18. Swearword
- 19. Rapper born Tracy Marrow
- 22. Herring type
- 23. Semitic language
- 24. Kathmandu resident
- 25. Prepare a book or film for release
- 27. Filmic
- 28. Son of Judah
- 29. Large container
- 31. Chemical ending
- 32. Inflammation of the ear
- 33. Wrestling hold
- 37. Ages between 13 and 19
- 39. Big rig

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- 40. Pouch
- 41. Small children
- 43. Mire
- 44. Vive ____ !
- 46. Branching
- 47. Pointed end

- 48. Hogwarts attendee
- 51. Type of ranch
- 52. Children's author Blyton
- 53. Actor Morales
- 55. Sgts., e.g.
- 57. Covering for the head

- 58. German pronoun
- 59. Hit sign
- 60. Appropriate
- 61. Driver's aid
- 62. Baseball stat
- 63. Block up

sudoku

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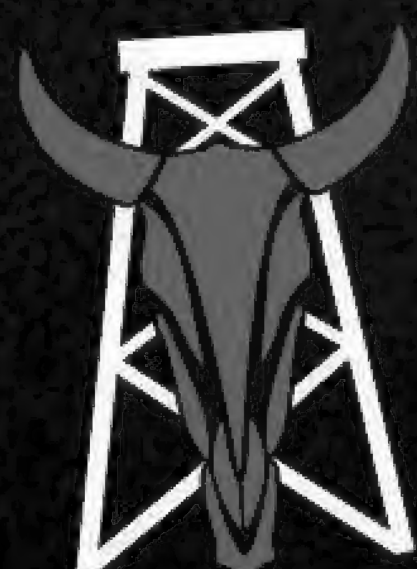


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